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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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ABOVE and BEYOND

THE MEDAL OF HONOR: America's highest tribute symbolizes the greatness mankind can reach when serving our country.



In Texas, Nimitz Remembered. By Phyllis J. Rossiter. A museum in his hometown of Fredericksburg, southwest of Dallas, site of the 86th National Convention, pays tribute to World War II hero.

In the Presence of Greatness. By Joan M. Maiman. Medal of Honor recipients honored by VFW and Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

Black Hero Lost in History. By Harold Rogers. Tribute paid to black cavalryman, who earned Medal of Honor.

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Flying Horseman. By Dan McCarthy. WWII airmen recall some of their experiences.

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COVER—The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military award. It was first presented in March, 1863, to men who took part in the "Great Train Chase." The VFW honored several living holders of the medal with a dinner during the festivities over the Presidential inaugural weekend. Last Memorial Day, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership program feted several Medal of Honor recipients in Chicago. The Defense Department photo on the cover of this month's issue shows Medals of Honor awarded by the three services. Eligible for the Navy Medal of Honor also are Marines and Coast Guardsmen.



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VFW OBJECTIVES

- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

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MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU
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Fire Stockman!



By Billy Ray Cameron
VFW Commander-in-Chief

When President Reagan's Office of Management and Budget Director David Stockman said the nation's military are more interested in their retirement payments than in defending the United States, I as your Commander-in-Chief immediately wired the President to fire Stockman and repudiate his lies.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars will not be satisfied, Mr. President, until Stockman has been fired and you have repudiated his lies," I demanded in my telegram. "We also demand that Stockman apologize to this nation's veterans and its Armed Forces."

Further, in the telegram, I commented that "the 2 million members of the VFW were never aware until yesterday [Feb. 5] that David Stockman was so interested in national security. Evidently he has been a crusader to save our national security from the military."

It was also pointed out to the President that this country's security "owes more to our Armed Forces and the veterans of the Armed Forces than it does to David Stockman."

"His verbal assault on our Armed Forces and their retirement was a slap in the face of all those who sacrificed for this country and of those who are serving it now with a lot more courage than he has displayed."

Protecting veterans' entitlements

against the blows of budget-slashers like Stockman being struck in the name of deficit reduction is a first priority of all us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

To that end, as Commander-in-Chief, I have written President Ronald Reagan of our deep concern over the fate of Veterans Administration health care and entitlements.

Subjects covered are the proposal to tax veterans' disability compensation granted to them as a result of injuries in their nation's service, increasing the users' fee on GI home loans from 1% to 5%, halting cost-of-living increases in compensation and pension, reducing VA medical personnel by 8,000 by 1990 and the means test for non-service connected veterans.

Here is a partial text of my letter:

It is inconceivable to me that consideration would be given to tax compensation payable by the Veterans Administration to veterans for their service connected disabilities which they incurred in service to our country in its time of need. This would in effect cause disabled veterans to subsidize, in part, their own compensation payments.

Increasing the users' fee on veteran home loans from 1% to 5% would not only be a disservice to veterans and work a particular hardship on Vietnam veterans, but negate the original intent of this most used readjustment benefit for veterans.

Imposing a moratorium on cost of living increases in the compensation and pension programs is wholly unacceptable unless it applies to the beneficiaries of all entitlement programs.

The proposed reduction of 8,000 medical care personnel by 1990 would seriously jeopardize the VA's capability to provide quality health care.

The VFW has always been opposed to Section 401 of Public Law 96-330, which authorized the VA to look behind the statement of inability to pay for medical care. It has been our contention, as supported by VA's own census, that at any given time the average non-service connected veteran occupying a VA hospital bed is a medically indigent individual, with multiple diagnoses and little or no health insurance.

Joining us in the fight is Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, who chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He has written President Reagan and Stockman, expressing his alarm over these threats to veterans.

The points covered in his letter to the President are the same as those singled out by your Commander-in-Chief, but to Stockman he objected to the OMB director's use of the term "sacred cow" to describe treatment of non-service connected veterans in VA hospitals on a recent television talk show.

He also noted that his committee and Congress have taken action between the fiscal years of 1981 and 1984 that resulted in savings in veterans' programs of more than \$1 billion.

Further, the VFW cannot support other cuts in the budget, personnel and research. They constitute a major erosion in veterans' benefits. This proposed budget is the first dollar reduction in the VA budget in years, even though it has fallen from 5.1% of the federal budget in outlays in 1975 to 2.7% in 1986. ■

VETSGRAM

LEGISLATIVE

99th Congress Bills Introduced: Referred to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee: By Sen. Robert Byrd for Sen. Alan Cranston, S. 6 to make certain improvements in the VA healthcare programs and for other purposes and S. 9 to authorize the guaranty of qualified adjustable rate mortgages and to increase the maximum amounts of the VA loan guaranties. By Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, S. 82 to provide that the VA Administrator may furnish outpatient dental services and treatment for non-service connected disability to any war veteran who has a service-connected disability of 50% or more. By Sen. Dennis DeConcini, S. 85 to revise the formula for the payment of the dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to the surviving spouses of veterans who die on active duty or from service-connected disability.

* * *

Referred to the Senate Armed Services Committee: By Sen. Inouye, S. 132 to provide for payment under the CHAMPUS program of certain health care expenses incurred by certain members and former members of the uniformed services and their dependents to the extent that such expenses are not payable under medicare and, also, S. 190 to authorize former members of the Armed Forces who are totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are permitted to travel on such aircraft.

* * *

Referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee: Introduced by Rep. G.V. Montgomery, for himself, and Rep. J.P. Hammerschmidt, H.R. 85 to revise the formula for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to the surviving spouses of veterans who die on active duty or from service-connected disabilities. By Rep. Robert A. Roe, H.R. 178 to eliminate the time period in which a veteran has to use for educational benefits; H.R. 180 to provide for the payment of service pensions to veterans of World War I and the surviving spouses and children of such veterans; H.R. 182 to promote the care and treatment of veterans in state veterans nursing homes; H.R. 183 to provide that remarriage of the surviving spouse of a veteran after age 60 shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation; H.R. 184 to waive the payment of premiums for National Service Life

Insurance by certain persons who have attained age 70 and H.R. 185 to provide mortgage protection life insurance to certain veterans unable to acquire commercial life insurance because of service-connected disabilities. By Rep. Charles E. Bennett, H.R. 264 to direct the Secretary of the Army to set aside an appropriate area within Arlington National Cemetery for the burial of cremated remains. By Rep. E. (Kika) de la Garza, H.R. 313, the Veterans Administration Adjudication Procedure and Judicial Review Act. By Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, H.R. 362 to provide presumption of service connection for the occurrence of post-traumatic stress disorders in veterans who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era. By Rep. James H. Quillen, H.R. 398 to amend the Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act of 1978 to provide that monthly annuity payments under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 shall not be included as income for the purpose of determining eligibility for, or the amount of, certain veterans pension and dependency and indemnity compensation benefits and H.R. 399 to require that burials be permitted in national cemeteries on weekends and holidays. By Rep. G. William Whitehurst, H.R. 480 to provide that remarriage of the surviving spouse of a veteran after age 60 shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation. By Rep. Bob Edgar, H.R. 505 to improve the delivery of health care services by the Veterans Administration.

* * *

Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations: By Reps. Montgomery and Hammerschmidt, H.R. 513 to establish the Veterans Administration as an executive department.

* * *

Referred to the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee: By Rep. Phillip Crane, H.R. 84 to provide for annual observances of certain legal public holidays on their traditional dates. By Rep. Michael Bilirakis, H.J.Res. 20 designating the week beginning Nov. 11, 1985, as National Women Veterans Recognition Week.

* * *

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means: By Rep. de la Garza, H.R. 314 to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to restore prior law with respect to the issuance of qualified veterans' mortgage bonds.

* * *

Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services: By Rep. Don Fuqua, H.R. 328 to authorize

recomputation at age 60 of the retired pay of members and former members of the uniformed services whose retired pay is computed on the basis of pay scales in effect prior to Jan. 1, 1972, and for other purposes.

* * *

Few Bills Become Law: Of the thousands of bills introduced in a given Congress, as little as 5% may be enacted into law. Measures which stand the best chance of being advanced are most often those introduced by a member of the committee of jurisdiction with strong bipartisan cosponsorship. Many bills are introduced merely to placate constituents and die when Congress adjourns without ever having been considered.

SECURITY

NATO—Successful for 36 Years but Strains Developing: NATO has kept the peace in Europe for 36 years; despite political contention, there has been military cooperation. If force modernization and infrastructure improvements are made on schedule, another NATO political problem may arise: removal or dismantling of nuclear weapons. Because NATO defenses were so weak, West European politicians could not in the past yield to pressure from peace groups. Pershing and cruise missiles were to be deployed to offset Soviet SS-20 IRBMs based in East Germany. Belgian and Dutch governments agreed to accept the U.S. missiles in 1978, but delayed because of pressures. Belgium decided to accept cruise missiles last January. But, now that NATO's conventional defense capability is improving, politicians may find it easier to yield to anti-nuclear pressure. Effective deterrence must consist of military responses ranging from counter-terrorism through conventional and nuclear theater war to strategic global conflict. This seamless web will not remain intact if a strong conventional defense is seen as fully replacing nuclear deterrence. Together they protect against the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact. The Strategic Defense Initiative worries West European leaders that a workable anti-missile defense might remove the U.S. protective nuclear umbrella from Europe, leading the U.S. to abandon the continent. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and other U.S. officials have assured them nothing of the sort will happen.

* * *

Light Infantry Divisions Face Battle: Smaller light infantry divisions may get scrutiny of Congress.

The four divisions of 10,000 men could be moved in four days, a third the time needed for regular-sized divisions. Congressional critics charge the Army has compromised firepower for mobility and tried to eclipse the Marine Corps role as an expeditionary force. Also, they argue, the light division could not withstand combat with any of Soviet-equipped armies in the Middle East or fielded by the Soviet Union or other Warsaw Pact members, even North Korea or Cuba. Army admits these points, but notes the divisions could be reinforced after arrival in the area.

SERVICE

Project HOPE Conducts Survey: VA beneficiaries receiving housebound or aid and attention benefits will be asked to take part in a study being conducted by the Project HOPE Center for Health Affairs to evaluate the impact of these programs and their potential for aiding persons entitled to Medicaid. Health and Human Services with VA support is funding the study. Participation is voluntary, responses kept confidential. Final arrangements have not been completed. Beneficiaries from only four VA Regional Office areas will be involved—Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis and Philadelphia. Service organizations' representatives will be on hand to assist beneficiaries at the time of interview if they want them. VFW is urging full participation so an accurate sampling will result.

* * *

Jobs for Veterans: The Jobs for Veterans Initiative has been introduced by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor Donald E. Shasteen. Envisioned are committees to improve service for veterans, help find them work and enhance their training.

* * *

Cancer and Agent Orange Study: Because Swedish studies indicate possibility of a connection between phenoxy exposure and rare forms of cancer in humans—soft tissue sarcoma—the VA and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology are conducting independent studies. Collection of data has begun. Final report is due in June, 1986.

* * *

VA Fitness Program: VA Administrator Harry N. Walters has announced a national project to emphasize exercise and fitness as an essential part of health care, especially among aging and disabled veterans. Annual VA Wheelchair Games and Veterans Gold Age Games already have been long established by the VA for the elderly and handicapped.

Liked 'Salute' Story

I wish to commend you for an exceptionally well done job on your January, 1985, issue. I am a VFW member, Post 7404, Carrollton, Ga. The article "You Are Not Forgotten," by Joan M. Maiman stirred my emotions concerning our missing comrades. It was an exceptionally well written piece, but Warren Maus's article "Salute II: America's Veterans One And All," brought my heart to my throat, and tears to my eyes.

As a nine-year veteran of the Marine Corps and a Vietnam veteran, I still find it difficult at times to discuss openly my Vietnam experiences. At times, when I read fine articles such as these, the full weight of Vietnam crashes hard on me.

In reading Maus's article, I found he was able to capture the emotion, the feeling of the people, the unbinding of the irons that have held so many of us captive within ourselves. And the photographs were excellent, representative of what was undoubtedly the weekend America and the Vietnam Veteran came together as one.—*Gerald R. Truelove, P.O. Box 257, Waco, Ga. 30182*

Resents Treatment

The general feeling among disabled veterans is that they are not now nor have they ever been justly compensated for severe disabilities as a result of wartime service.

Some disabled veterans (military retirees) have put their lives on the line in as many as three wars. We are politically hostile to attacks on veterans and military retiree benefits from corporate and financial giants who feed at public troughs with insatiable appetites and view veterans as non-productive welfare recipients.

Corporate America is living high on the hog with a 57% profit increase after taxes for the first quarter of 1984. Some paid no income tax for either 1982 nor 1983.

For example, J. Peter Grace, who is so quick to attack military entitlement programs, received over \$300,000 in pensions while still employed within his corporate structure. Meanwhile, the middle-class is going the way of the American Indian; the poor are poorer; the disabled veteran and aged military retirees are existing closer to the poverty level than to the general population. In other words, we have a feudal system with disabled veterans and military retirees occupying the lower rungs of the economic ladder.—*Wallace Deering, 3616 Moonlight, El Paso, Texas 79904*

Black Veterans

For a scholarly study of black soldiers, I would appreciate contacting veterans, black or white, who served with or in the infantry after the Battle of the Bulge in all-black platoons made up of service troops who volunteered for the infantry. Approximately 2,500 of them served in 11 divisions to the end of World War II in Europe. Probably 1,500 still survive.—*Prof. Jerome Long, Department of Religion, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. 06457*

Wants Visitors

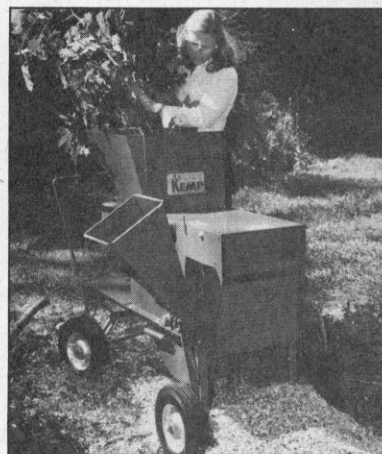
Blind and very hard of hearing, I would appreciate visits from members of my Post 1863, and I am sure that others in the same position as I would like to meet other members of their Posts because it is difficult or impossible for them to attend meetings owing to their disabilities. I am a totally disabled veteran, went through Pearl Harbor attack and served with the 25th Infantry Division in the South Pacific until medically discharged in 1943.—*Jacob W. Danko, 6250 Turney Road, Apt. 168, Bedford, Ohio 44146*

continued on page 11

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Praises Scouts

Col. John E. Olson, author of "Philippine Scout: Neglected Hero" (November), is correct. I have been in the Army a long time. The American people have never heard of the Philippine Scouts. So I recommend that the names of the units of the Philippine Scouts be permanently engraved on the walls of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point along with the names of all Scouts who were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.— *Sgt. Tingchang S. Shiraki, Box 347, San Diego, Calif. 92112.*

SO a 'Saint'

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the VFW and Service Officer Jack Fleet in Wichita, Kans. The man is a saint. He has shared our very roughest and our happiest times in our long and extensive battle with the VA disability board. He was always there for us, without a lot of bureaucratic doubletalk, straight off the shoulder. We would like the VFW and all the readers of the VFW Magazine to know that there are some great people who work for the VFW.— *Don and Julie Humphrey, 3600 D SW 29th Terr., Topeka, Kans. 66614.*

Korean War Vets Sought

I have been commissioned by Simon & Schuster to write a new study of the Korean War. Like my earlier books, "Overlord" and "Battle for the Falklands", this one will be based overwhelmingly upon the testimony of those who took part.

I would like to hear from any veteran from Korea, initially giving rank and brief details of service, with a view to interview in the U.S. later this year.— *Max Hastings, Guilsborough Lodge, Guilsborough, Northamptonshire, England.*

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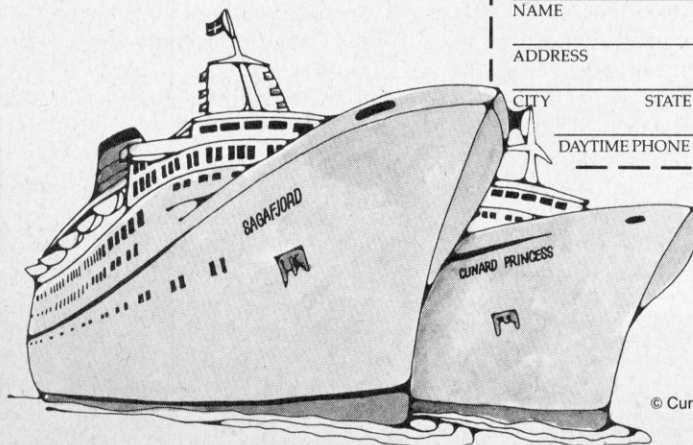
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CUNARD / NAC

Q -Can the teenagers have cars on campus?

A -Youngsters over 17 may purchase cars if they have demonstrated good personal responsibility, an ability to finance this project by working, a C average or better and parent/house-parent approval. In some rare instances, a 16-year-old may qualify if there seems to be a compelling need. The same requirements hold true for use/ownership of motorcycles/mopeds.

Q -Where do the children get their money?

A -Many of the youngsters seek employment through the Home's student training program. They may work in the guest lodge, library, farm, grocery store or other site on campus. In addition to this, many older youth earn money through babysitting, lawn mowing or employment in Eaton Rapids. In addition, all youngsters receive a small weekly allowance.

Q -Are all children living in any one cottage from the same family and are they of the same sex?

A -Whenever possible families are kept together. In the case of a large family this would make it unlikely that other youngsters would be added. By the same token, a number of houses have "cottage families" with children who are unrelated to each other. It is also not unlikely to have houses with boys and girls living in the same house. We try wherever possible to approximate a normal family environment with mixed sexes and ages.

Q -Are visitors welcome?

A -Visitors are always welcome. Advance notice of a request for a tour is desirable. The guest lodge on campus is available as a motel. Reasonable

rates attract many VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members during the course of the year. In addition, persons traveling with recreational vehicles may stop at the campus. A large number of electrical hookups are available free of charge.

Q -How about the Home's water, sewage, telephone system? Does it have its own or is it supplied by Eaton Rapids?

A -All the water used daily at the National Home comes from two wells located on the campus. The Home has its own pumps and treatment facility. All the sewage is pumped to a lagoon system on the northern part of the property. This sewage is treated to remove harmful bacteria and then it is released into the Grand River. The telephone system is owned by the Home. It has a sophisticated, computerized switching device located in the Administration Building. The lines feeding the campus, but ending at the gate, belong to the Michigan Bell system.

Q -Where do the National Home children go to school?

A -All of them go to Eaton Rapids, Mich., public schools. Buses arrive in the morning and pick up the children as they would in any other community. The children participate to the extent they are able and wanting to be part of the school programs, such as chorus, sports and yearbook.

Q -Does the Home have an endowment fund?

A -Yes. Interest and dividends produced by this endowment fund provide the largest single source of income in the annual budget. The endowment fund is derived largely from the sale of National Home life memberships and from wills and bequests. Persons interested in including the VFW National Home in their wills should consult with their attorneys. Funds designated for the endowment fund will remain unspent.

20 Years Marked As Board Attorney

George Cholack knows the National Home in his special way better than anyone else. He has been attorney for the Home's Board of Trustees for the past 20 years.

His long-term involvement with the Home began at the VFW National Convention held in Detroit in 1960. There he met Charles Wagner, a World War I veteran who was the original attorney for the National Home. They became friends, and when Wagner was ready to retire from his position in 1964, he asked Cholack if he would consider the office if nominated. As a VFW member who has felt the Home is "the most worthwhile activity of the VFW," he accepted.

Since that time there have been changes at the National Home, but its

basic concept of helping the children and families of deceased and disabled VFW members has remained intact.

The future of the VFW National Home "looks great" he says.

"I have seen the Home through some rough times. I think in some ways those times were good. They strengthened us through experience.

"The Home has always stood very high with me, and Dr. Wilson (National Home executive director) is the best leader we've had there; an expert in child care."

Cholack has lived in the metropolitan Detroit area all his life. He served in the Navy during World War II, afterward resuming his education at Wayne State University. He received his law degree in 1951 from the University of Michigan.

A practicing attorney, he and his wife, Jeanne, have two children, Eric and Dina. ■

UN 'Irresponsible'

Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron has accused the United Nations of acting irresponsibly towards Ethiopia's famine and asked President Reagan to order a reduction in the U.S. contribution to the world organization.

In a telegram delivered to the White House, He declared:

"When millions of Ethiopians are starving, the recent United Nations decision to spend \$73.5 for a conference center in that famine-stricken country is both irrational and irresponsible.

"It is a further demonstration that the United Nations is more interested in expanding its leftist-leaning bureaucracy than in helping to solve world problems.

"The UN must bear the consequences of its act of irresponsibility. On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I strongly

urge you to order the United States contribution to the UN be reduced by the amount to be spent on the Ethiopian Conference Center."

His message is in keeping with a resolution to reduce the U.S. contribution to the United Nations that was adopted at the VFW's 85th National Convention in Chicago last summer.

Earlier he praised the Administration's withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

National Home Seals

Responses to the annual National Home Seals appeal are running behind last year's, Dr. Ted Wilson, National Home executive director, reports.

"We are dependent on your support to operate this haven for dependent children and families of VFW and

Auxiliary members," he said.

Echoing his concern was Joe Epling, secretary-treasurer, who added that "I know it's tough sometimes to dig into your pocket. As Commander of Post 701 in Lansing, Mich., I am particularly aware of that problem, but that does not lessen our need for operational funds here. We need your help to go forward for another 60 years."

Contributions may be sent to the VFW National Home, 3573 Waverly Road South, Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827-9799.

Life memberships in the National Home also fund the facility. A \$25 donation is the cost of these and they entitle the active VFW or Auxiliary member to a certificate, wallet card and the right to vote each year for trustees and on other important issues relating to the Home. Write the Home for an application. Information requested consists of name, address and the Post or Auxiliary the appli-

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All I ever wanted was something I could do in my spare time with my hands, make a little money and enjoy myself and not have to buy \$3000 worth of tools or merchandise to do it.

Believe It Or Not

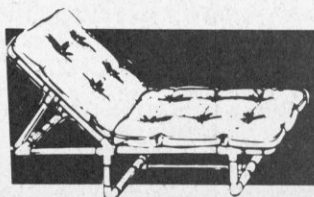
I found the most enjoyable and profitable business working with my hands and the only tools I use are a hack saw and measuring tape. The really nice thing about it is any man, woman or ten-year-old can do it.

What Do I do?

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Do you need my shop drawings?

No, you don't need my shop drawings unless you want to save hundreds of hours of trial and error work and thousands of dollars that I had to spend before I finally

found the right design and measurements and tricks to the manufacturing of P.V.C. pipe furniture. I only wish that when I started, I could have bought these shop drawings and I would have gladly paid \$100 for just one of them.

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Selective Service Report

Thomas K. Turnage, Selective Service director, says registrations of draft-eligible young men rose from 11,939,865 as of March 31, 1984 to 12,913,000 as of Sept. 30, 1984.

This is included in the Selective Service System's semi-annual report issued at the end of 1984.

Registration among men born between 1960 and 1964 is 98%, he said.

Turnage added:

"Broad-based public support for the mission of Selective Service is evidenced in many ways. State and local governments continue to issue

and support proclamations to bolster our effort to increase public awareness of the registration requirement. Some states have passed laws requiring evidence of registration as a condition to attending state-supported educational institutions or qualifying for state-financed educational benefits. Patriotic and civic organizations continue to support Selective Service.

"I can report with confidence, as I did last year, that the Selective Service System can meet the manpower requirements of a mobilization if called upon, and we can do so in an equitable manner."

Legion of Valor

A holder of the Medal of Honor, Carlos C. Ogden, national commander of the Legion of Valor, is anxious that VFW members who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the Distin-

guished Service Cross, the Navy Cross or the Air Force Cross be advised that they are eligible for membership in the Legion of Valor. The organization is holding its convention in San Jose, Calif., July 18 to 21. Ogden, who is a member of Post 3982, Santa Clara, Calif., may be reached for further information at 6013 Calle de Felice, San Jose, Calif. 95124.

VA/Harvard Report

New perspectives on caring for the increasing numbers of older veterans are presented in a report prepared by Harvard University in collaboration with the Veterans Administration.

Entitled "Older Veterans: Linking VA and Community Resources," the 443-page book focuses on the development of strategies for caring for older veterans through improved sharing

continued on page 17

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with the community.

VA Chief Medical Director John W. Ditzler, M.D., characterized the new research findings as "a valuable resource for VA's continued efforts in planning for the future needs of veterans, which should substantially assist in the public debate on meeting the needs of all aging persons."

The report can be ordered from Harvard University Press, 79 Garden St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138. The purchase price is \$26.

■ VA Q&A

Q. How may I obtain copies of documents and records from my VA file?

A. Requests for copies of documents from your VA file must be made in writing and should include your signature. Your request should be mailed to the nearest VA Regional Office for processing. A nominal fee may be charged, depending on the number of copies requested.

Q. Can anyone get information from my VA records?

A. The Freedom of Information Act allows the VA to release the amount of any benefits payments you receive. The Privacy Act of 1974 generally prevents the release of other information without your written consent.

Q. How may I obtain copies of my service records which are not a part of my VA file?

A. Service records are generally kept at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. You may contact the nearest VA Regional Office for the proper form and information on how to obtain these records.

Q. Can active-duty service personnel get VA guaranteed home loans?

A. Yes. Military personnel are eligible

for guaranteed home loans after having served on continuous active status for 181 days. Applicants should provide the nearest VA regional office with a statement of service signed by the servicemember's commanding officer.

Q. My husband recently died and I want to file for a widow's pension. Does it matter whether I wait until I get his estate settled or should I go ahead and file now?

A. The VA will need a report of your income and net worth to consider your claim. To establish the earliest possible effective date for pension, you should file your claim within 45 days of your husband's death. If you

do not have complete information about your income and net worth at the time you file your claim, give your best estimate and state that it is an estimate. The VA regional office will notify you concerning the evidence you must submit to finalize your claim.

Q. My service-connected disability is worsening. How may I get a re-evaluation?

A. To be reevaluated you must submit a request to the VA Regional Office in the state where you live along with any medical evidence to support your claim. Be sure to indicate your full name and your social security or VA claim number.

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In Texas, Nimitz Is Remembered

Plan to visit the Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park and Museum of the Pacific in Fredericksburg this August

By Phyllis Rossiter

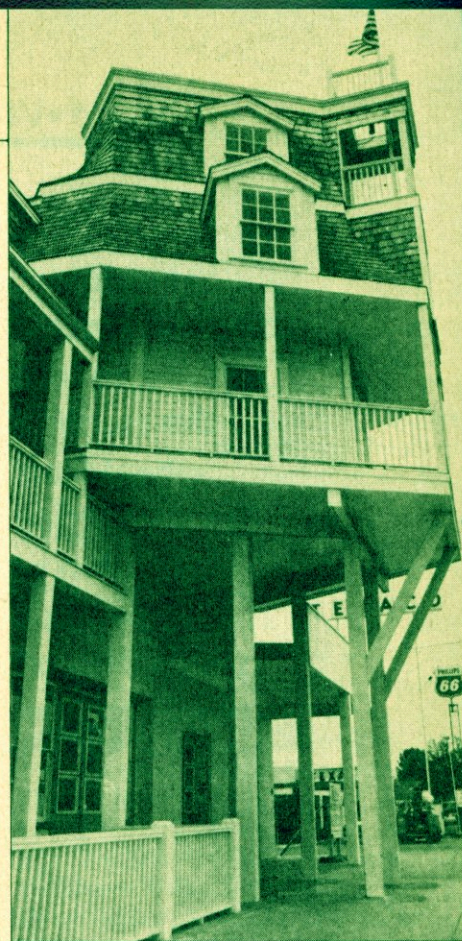
In the colorful Hill Country of Texas, the old German town of Fredericksburg — southwest of Dallas, site of the 86th VFW National Convention from Aug. 16-23 — sprawls in a wide valley. Onto Main Street, "wide enough to turn an oxen wagon," juts the prow, apparently, of a 19th century steamboat.

A second look reveals not a ship, but a hotel-turned-museum housing World War II military exhibits, photographs, artifacts and personal mementos of Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz. Nimitz consented to the use of his name for the Texas State Historic Site, provided the museum was dedicated to all who served with him in the Pacific during World War II.

(Issuance of a postage stamp honoring the admiral was urged in resolution 309 adopted at the 85th National Convention.)

The steamboat-hotel was built in 1847 by Adm. Nimitz's grandfather,

This Japanese garden was the gift of the people of Japan to the Nimitz museum.



Onetime hotel in Fredericksburg, Texas, built by his grandfather, houses much of Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz's memorabilia.

Charles H. Nimitz, a former German merchant sailor who came in 1846 with the first German settlers to this valley. He became the most important man in young Nimitz's life since the future five-star admiral's father died before he was born.

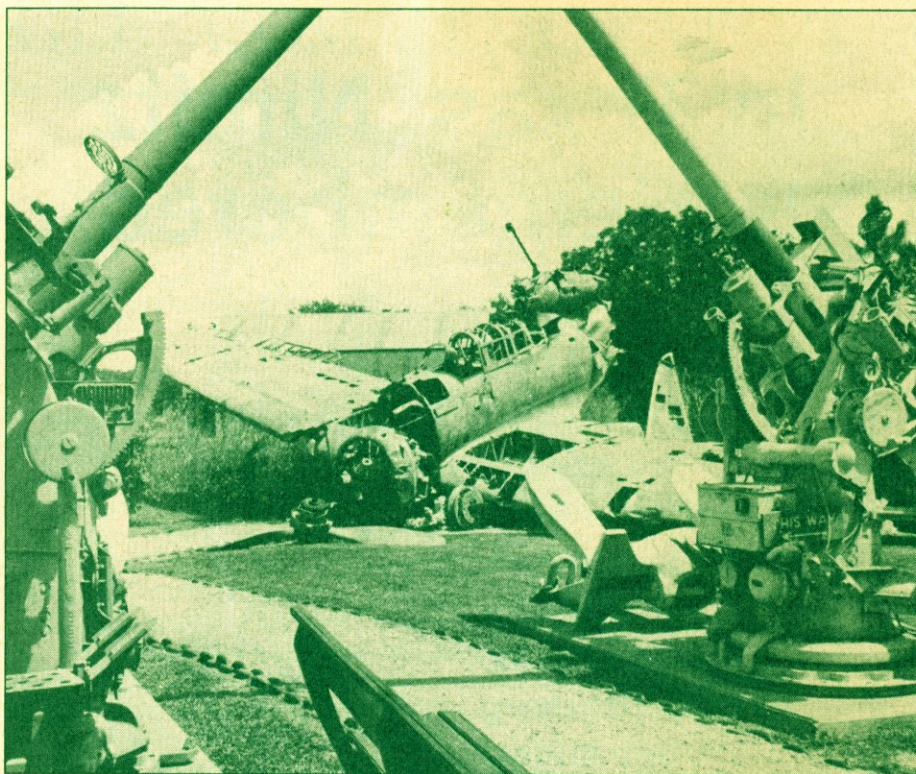
The hotel became a famous landmark on the military road between San Antonio and San Diego. It boasted its own stables, gardens, brewery, saloon, general store, bathhouse and an elaborate ballroom. The old guest registers display the names of such renowned visitors as Robert E. Lee, U.S. Grant and a mysterious "Mr. Howard" — better known as Jesse James.

Born 100 years ago on Feb. 24 in a modest house a block east of the hotel, Adm. Nimitz grew up in and around the land-locked steamboat and often played on the deck-like balconies and in the crow's nest.

From his grandfather, Nimitz learned a philosophy which he often applied throughout his life:

"The sea, like life itself, is a stern taskmaster. The best way to get along with either is to learn all you can, then do your best and don't worry — especially about things over

“Hands-on” displays enable you to turn the steering wheel from the submarine Menhaden or position a ship’s beacon



These World War II weapons highlight the Nimitz museum.

which you have no control.”

Despite the nautical surroundings, young Nimitz hoped to enter West Point, but no appointments were available, so he enrolled at Annapolis. (Dwight David Eisenhower was similarly starcrossed. He wanted to go to Annapolis but had to settle for West Point. Nevertheless, both men achieved five-star status.)

Nimitz graduated from the Naval Academy in 1905, the same year that Japanese Adm. Heihachiro Togo virtually annihilated the Russian Baltic Fleet at the Battle of Tsushima during the Russo-Japanese War. Togo became Nimitz’s hero. Indeed, he later called himself a disciple of the Japanese admiral, studied his strategies and even attended his funeral in 1934.

Then, 18 days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt elevated Nimitz over 28 senior flag officers to commander in chief of the Pacific and with the rank of admiral.

As CinCPac, Nimitz commanded from his headquarters on Guam

“more military power than had been wielded by all the commanders in previous wars.” Scattered over millions of square miles of the world’s largest ocean, it was composed of 2,219,153 men and women in all branches, as well as civilians. Historian Samuel Eliot Morison says that despite this heavy burden Nimitz was the most accessible and considerate of fleet commanders.

It was Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz who signed the Japanese surrender document on his flagship, the USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945. After his hero’s welcome home he became Chief of Naval Operations from 1945 to 1947. He died in San Francisco on Feb. 20, 1966, and was buried on his 81st birthday.

Three years earlier it was rumored that the old Nimitz Hotel was to be torn down. Fredericksburg civic leaders objected and began to work with Texas governors, Navy leaders, congressmen, and Texas state legislators to preserve it for conversion into a museum “to perpetuate the memory of this modest Texan, the last of

our five-star admirals.”

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation, a private fundraising and advisory organization, was formed. Over the years it has raised a total of \$1 million, including the \$25 life savings of a 10-year-old boy who used to visit the museum every day on his way home from school.

In 1969, the state of Texas assumed ownership and management of the hotel museum, and in 1981 it became a unit of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The museum’s name was formalized to the Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park and Museum of the Pacific War.

After years of restoration work, the museum was officially dedicated two years ago on Veterans Day.

Capt. Harold Gosnell, who served under Nimitz as a chaplain during the war, describes the Nimitz Center as “a witness to conviction, integrity and to commitment . . . where visitors will be reminded of the people who have made this country strong and firm, and who have kept the integrity and purpose of its democ-

racy alive."

The Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park and Museum of the Pacific has several components: the hotel building; the art gallery next door; the Garden of Peace; and the History Walk of the Pacific War.

Housed on the first floor of the hotel are mementos of Nimitz's early years — his birth, childhood and education — and the years of his career up to Pearl Harbor when he was given command of Allied forces in the Pacific.

On the second floor are exhibits detailing the years of World War II. Above the wall-sized, three-dimensional displays runs a timeline to help keep the viewer's perspective and to show what was happening in other parts of the world at a given time. Visitors hear again President Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech and watch the Movietone News version of what happened at Pearl Harbor.

"Hands-on" displays enable you to turn the steering wheel from the submarine Menhaden or position a ship's beacon. A pistol and flight jacket from Doolittle's raid on Tokyo and a furnished wardroom from a destroyer are shown. Via filmed recordings you can hear and see other veterans tell of their wartime experiences. As well as tapes of enlisted men, there are recordings of men like Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., pilot of the Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima.

The third floor of the hotel is devoted to Adm. Nimitz's postwar life. A bookstore, a library, an audito-

rium-theater and some restored hotel rooms are there too. Next door to the hotel an art gallery features combat art and photography.

After completing the tour of the old hotel building, visitors are directed outside and down a trail behind the main building. Along the way is Memorial Wall, where plaques set into the native rock memorialize those killed in the Pacific.

The Japanese people respected Adm. Nimitz as a fair and honorable man. After the war, he returned Samurai swords to their ancestral homes and started a fund out of his own pocket to restore Togo's flagship, the Mikasa. It now is a Japanese national monument. Japanese historians believe the three greatest naval commanders of all time are Lord Nelson, Togo and Nimitz. "He understood Japan well," says Rear Adm. Shoetsu Omuro.

The Japanese people donated \$100,000 for the construction of a classic Japanese garden. The Japan Coordinating Committee commemorated the relationship between Togo and Nimitz with an exact replica of Togo's study and garden. A pool and brook, a "sea of sand" and tree-lined walks and benches for resting and contemplating peace and friendship are the garden's highlights.

An Anchor Chain Trail guides visitors along the "History Walk of the Pacific War" and to a large hangar nearby where some of the world's rarest military artifacts from Pacific beaches and battlefields — from Pearl Harbor past Midway to Tokyo Bay — may be seen. Mines, parts of

submarines, artillery tractors, a half-track, an amphibious personnel carrier, a solid bronze screw from an aircraft carrier, guns, cannons, torpedoes and tanks are shown.

Visitor-activated pushbutton tape recorders stand ready to tell the story of selected artifacts; for example, Sgt. Jack Lattimore's now-rusty tank. These "talking" exhibits give visitors a "you-are-there" feeling, a sense of what it must have been like in the Pacific in those days. In some cases, photographs taken in the field were used to build an authentic emplacement in the History Walk.

Cooperation in assembling this international exhibit has come from the U. S. Navy, Marines, Army, Coast Guard, New Zealand, Japan, Fiji, the Netherlands and Australia. Relics and funds for exhibits to tell of those desperate days in New Guinea where American and Australian blood was first shed together in the Pacific were supplied by Australians.

"The story of the acquisition of many of the artifacts is as interesting as the original use," according to curator Bruce Smith.

Sitting on poles in the hangar is an SBD Dauntless American dive bomber. Six months after Pearl Harbor, Navy planes like this one sank four Japanese aircraft carriers at the Battle of Midway, turning the tide of the war. Out of 6,000 manufactured, this is one of only five remaining.

There is a Kawanishi Kyofu (Mighty Wind) Japanese fighter-sea-plane, American code-named Rex, on permanent loan from the Navy, as are many of the other large pieces of hardware. "It was a long time in restoration by the Texas State Technical Institute in Waco, as was the SBD," Smith said. "Only 97 were made, three survive in the U. S., one in Japan. The acquisition took exactly seven years from start to delivery."

And still another: the Val D3A2 Japanese Dive Bomber — its kind dropped the first bombs on Pearl Harbor. The only one in the United States, it was spotted in 1971 on the old Japanese airfield of Gasmata on New Britain. "The Australian government came to our aid," said

continued on page 55

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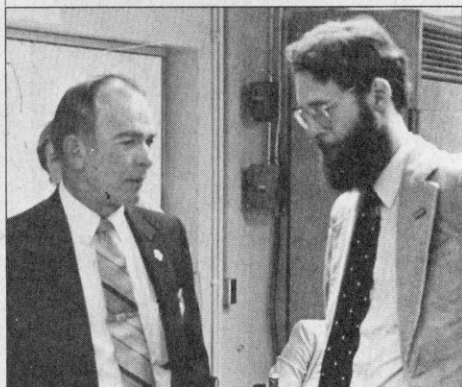
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New Jersey Department Commander Jack Doonan discusses the Point Man Project with Dr. Peter Kahn of the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission.

By William W. Lewis

THE NEW JERSEY AGENT Orange Commission in cooperation with Barnert Memorial Hospital in Paterson has begun a unique scientific investigation into the effect of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans.

The effort, named "The Point Man Project," utilizes state-of-the-art medical techniques on Vietnam veteran volunteers who undergo 3½ days' testing. Many of the tests are specially designed to look for dioxin, the unwanted by-product of Agent Orange many veterans believe has produced illnesses in themselves and their children.

One of the more unusual tests will send special blood samples from the volunteers to the University of Umea, Sweden, where methods have been developed that may be able to detect dioxin in the samples at levels in the parts per trillion, far lower than previously detectable.

The procedure, developed by Dr. Christofer Rappe, one of the world's leading dioxin chemists, could open the way for a way to test veterans for dioxin contamination. Currently, the \$1,000 cost of each test limits them initially to the pilot group.

This project took more than three years to develop and is completely funded by the State of New Jersey,

Point Man Project Takes Aim at Agent Orange

the first state to have an Agent Orange Commission. This scientific effort is the only one of its type currently being attempted. Most studies to date, including those of the federal government, have been statistical and based on medical records.

Last Dec. 6, the first group of six veterans entered the hospital. The commission expects to test 30 veterans during the initial phase of the project. If preliminary results are encouraging, an additional 120 volunteers will be processed to give a larger sample base for conclusions to be drawn.

Most of the medical personnel taking part in this research are volunteers who were recruited by the commission's scientific subcommittee. In

In addition to its research work, the commission has been active in outreach programs and other assistance to Vietnam veterans and their families.

addition to Barnert personnel, doctors and researchers from Rutgers University School of Medicine and other facilities are participating.

The commission has been seeking volunteers for this project for the past several months. Each volunteer is carefully screened. A careful check of medical history and documentation of exposure to Agent Orange in Viet-

nam are included. Military records are searched and the veterans are rated by the Department of Defense for their probable level of exposure. The study uses veterans who were not in Vietnam as comparison. Because of the stringent screening process, only one in 35 volunteers is accepted for the project.

The VFW Department of New Jersey has worked extensively with the Agent Orange Commission on this project and other matters related to the commission's efforts since its inception in 1980. Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab was recently briefed on the project by Commission Executive Director Wayne Wilson during a visit to New Jersey.

On the final day of testing, Department Commander Jack Doonan was on hand at Barnert to present each of the six veterans a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteering to take part. At least one of the six volunteers was a VFW member.

In addition to its research work, the commission has been active in outreach programs and other assistance to Vietnam veterans and their families. The commission was the only such body to offer testimony in federal court during the recent \$180 million class action suit against seven manufacturers of Agent Orange.

The commission is still seeking volunteers for this project. They do not have to be from New Jersey. Prospective volunteers should contact the Commission at 143 East State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608 or call 609-984-7396. They will be sent a questionnaire to fill out to see if they are qualified. ■

IN THE PRESENCE OF

GREATNESS

By Joan M. Maiman

Living recipients of the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor, were honored by the VFW Jan. 19 and in Chicago by the VVLP over Memorial Day weekend—three days of celebration and ceremony.

Sacrificing for others and courage in the face of stupendous danger are joined in a handful of surviving men who represent the human spirit at its best.

They are those who earned the nation's highest tribute, the Medal of honor, and by so doing have come to symbolize for Americans the greatness mankind is capable of reaching when put to the test.

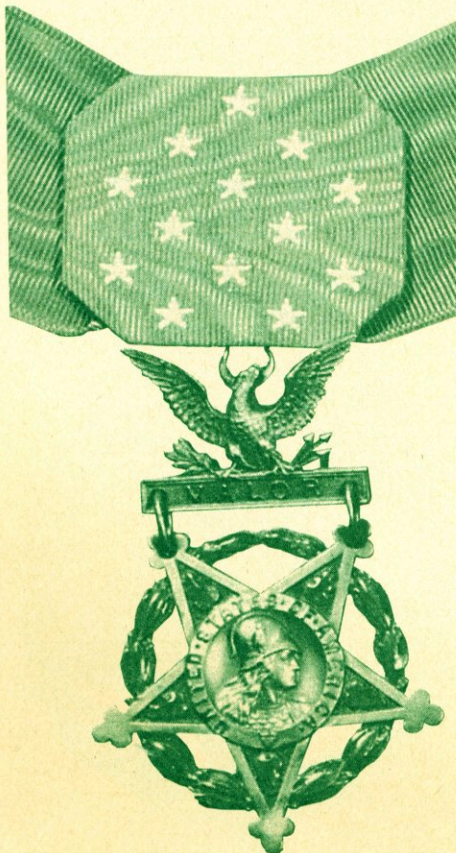
That greatness, often achieved in seconds or minutes, was recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars prior to the Jan. 21 inaugural ceremonies of President Reagan in Washington and the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP) in Chicago over the last Memorial Day weekend.

The VFW was host to 200 wearers

of the nation's most treasured honor Jan. 19 at a major dinner at the Washington Hilton before the inauguration. Similar dinners were held in 1977 and 1981.

During the VFW-sponsored event, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, the first Vietnam veteran to head the organization, paid tribute to the band of heroes by saying that the privilege to act as host to them "is the highlight of my year as Commander-in-Chief," even though he meets heads of state and countless other celebrities.

"I have heard many references to the U.S. Senate as the world's most prestigious club, but yours is," he said. "You can't buy your honor and you cannot be elected to it. You have earned it because you have distinguished yourselves by gallantry at the risk of your lives, above and beyond



Medal of Honor (Army)

"I have heard many references to the U.S. Senate as the world's most prestigious club, but yours is"

—VFW Commander-in-Chief
Billy Ray Cameron

the call of duty, against an enemy of our country. You have demonstrated courage, patriotism and loyalty to your country and to your comrades."

He added that before the Medal of Honor is approved their actions were "reviewed carefully and in great detail before Congress authorized the President to award it."

Cameron said that acting as host to the Medal of Honor recipients, their wives and guests "is symbolic of the honor we would like to bestow on all the men and women in the Armed Forces."

He concluded by quoting the late Gen. George C. Marshall:

"It is impossible for the nation to compensate a fightingman. No pay scale is high enough to buy the services of a single soldier for one minute of the agony of combat."

Turning to Warren Hutchings, of the Adolph Coors Co., Cameron asked him to convey his thanks to Joe and Bill Coors for providing long-stemmed roses for the ladies and digital desk clocks for the Medal of Honor recipients and praised the two Coors brothers for "their respect for the men and women in the Armed Forces."

Cameron also pointed out that the first Medals of Honor were awarded to six Ohioans on March 25, 1863, for their heroism during the "Great Locomotive Chase" of April, 1862.

They were, in order of the award presentation, Pvt. Jacob Parrott, 33rd Ohio Infantry; Pvt. William Bensinger, Pvt. Robert Buffum and Sgt. Elihu H. Mason, all of the 21st Ohio Infantry; Sgt.

William Pittinger, 2nd Ohio Infantry, and Cpl. William H. Reddick, 33rd Ohio Infantry.

These first six were cited for having "penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga.," to cut East Tennessee from the rest of the Confederacy.

The first six were part of 22 led by James J. Andrews, a Union spy sent by Gen. O.M. Mitchel behind Confederate lines to wreck the railroad from Marietta, Ga., to Chattanooga. At Big Shanty, they seized "the General," an engine, and three boxcars to begin their race with pursuing Confederates.

Near Chattanooga, all were captured. Eight, including Andrews and William Campbell, a civilian volunteer, were executed as spies because they were wearing mufti.

All probably would have been shot for the same reason, but the advance of Union troops caused such confusion among the Confederates that additional courts-martial were never convened.

Eight of the 14 survivors overpowered their guards in Atlanta and made a bold daylight escape to reach Union lines some time later.

The first six to receive the Medal of Honor had been exchanged as prisoners a few days before the ceremony.

Most of the remaining eight were presented theirs the following September. One received his in July, 1864.



Medal of Honor (Air Force)

"It is impossible for the nation to compensate a fighting man. No pay scale is high enough..."

—Gen. George C. Marshall

All but two of the executed soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

In April, 1863, the first Navy Medals of Honor were awarded, although the medal had been authorized originally for naval personnel.

Cameron also pledged continued VFW support for demands for an accounting of Americans missing in action in Southeast Asia and the release of any prisoners still being held by the Communists. He also praised President Reagan for assigning the MIA/POW issue top priority.

President of the Medal of Honor Society Ronald Ray expressed his and his organization's gratitude to the VFW and the Commander-in-Chief for honoring the heroes with the dinner and for the VFW's longstanding position on prisoners and the missing-in-action.

Ray also presented the VFW National Honor Guard with a plaque in recognition of its outstanding service to his organization by acting as an escort over the years.

Among the guests was Roger Hugh C. Donlon, the first person to receive the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. He served in Vietnam with the Special Forces.

At the VVLP event, Allen Lynch, the program's director in Illinois, a Medal of Honor recipient, Vietnam veteran and member of Post 4309, explained it was held to stress the need for veterans from all eras to work together.

Pre-game ceremonies at Wrigley

Field, home of the Chicago Cubs, hosted by Marine WWII vet Jack Brickhouse, a member of the Broadcasters Hall of Fame, began the VVLP weekend.

Introduction of the veterans drew cheers from the crowd and an especially big hand for WWI Medal of Honor recipient Thomas A. Pope, of San Gabriel, Calif., who was awarded the medal for action in France on July 4, 1918. Pope, 90, is one of the five living medal recipients during that war. Pope is a member of the VFW in San Gabriel, Calif.

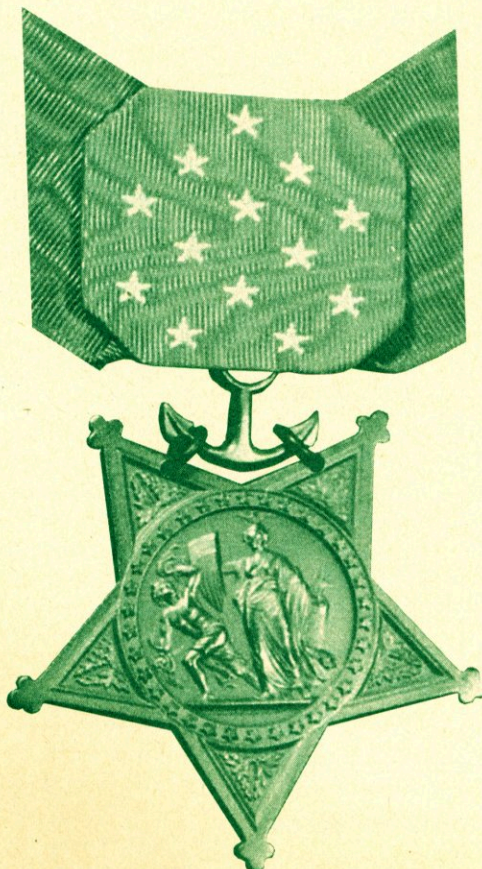
The veterans were honored at a reception on Saturday night hosted by Bill Horine, general manager of the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza in Chicago.

At a Sunday morning prayer breakfast, Rep. Henry Hyde (Ill.) praised those who had served the nation in all wars and those who had served in what he called a "noble undertaking" in Vietnam. Hyde is a member of VFW Post 3579 and served in WWII.

The only active duty member of the medal recipients attending the weekend events was Marine Col. Harvey C. Barnum, Jr., awarded the medal for valor in Vietnam in 1965. Now stationed at the Central Command at McDill AFB in Florida, Barnum said there is a new appreciation among Americans for the military.

A past president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society attending was Charles A. MacGillivray, awarded the medal for actions with the 44th Division near Woelfing,

continued on page 28



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(see page 47 for details)

GREATNESS

continued from page 27

France, on Jan. 1, 1945. MacGillivray, a charter member of VFW Post 6563 in South Boston, is the only American born in Canada to be awarded the Medal of Honor in WWII.

Current president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Vietnam veteran Ronald E. Ray, awarded the medal for action in Vietnam in 1966, is the first Vietnam veteran to hold that office and is in his second term. He declared he is committed to obtaining a full accounting of the 2,500 Americans still listed as missing from the Vietnam War. Ray is a member of VFW Post 4945, Winter Haven, Fla.

A member of the society's board of directors, Donald E. Ballard, awarded the medal for valor in the Navy in Vietnam in 1968, summed it up for many when he said it is good to be alive to be able to join in the events. A member of VFW Post 4050, North Kansas City, he shortly before participated in ceremonies at Union Cemetery in Lansing, Kans., honoring Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried there by placing special markers on their graves.

Donald Rudolph, awarded the Medal for valor while in the 6th Division on Luzon, said 3413 Medals of Honor have been awarded since the first in the Civil War. The newest recipient is the Vietnam War Unknown who was presented it by President Reagan at interment ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Rudolph recalled accompanying the remains of another WWII Medal of Honor recipient home.

"The family of Anthony Krotiak wanted his body brought home to Chicago and I was part of that detail," said Rudolph, a member of VFW Post 159 in Minneapolis. The highlight of the weekend came at a dinner for 500 guests on Sunday night at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, with Brickhouse as master of ceremonies.

Keynote speaker was then Sen. Charles Percy (Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who said he is committed to pressing for an accounting for all of the 2,500 men MIAs and added that President Reagan, who has given this issue his highest priority, is proceeding on the assumption that Americans may still be alive in Southeast Asia and are being held against their will.

"The last chapter in the tragic history of our American missing men is yet to be written," said Percy. "We are not closing the book with the interment of the Unknown."

Ray presented awards to Jack and Pat Brickhouse for their support of veterans programs as well as to Chicago Sun Times columnist Irv Kupcinet, founder of the annual Purple Heart Cruise in Chicago which has been an annual event since 1945.

Ron Ewbank, a Vietnam veteran, and member of VFW Post 1578, circulated petitions for issuance of an MIA postage stamp to keep the issue before the public.

On Memorial Day some of the Medal of Honor recipients attended ceremonies at locations around the area including one at VFW Post 2377.

Brickhouse summed up this weekend when he said to those assembled at the dinner: "Now I can say that I have stood in the presence of greatness by being here with these men, these recipients of the Medal of Honor." ■

A BLACK HERO

Lost in History

By Harold Rogers

Seventy-nine years ago, an American hero died and was buried. He was awarded the Medal of Honor and had served his country's armed forces for nearly 30 years.

But when Sgt. Brent Woods of Somerset, Ky., died in 1906, no bands played, and no military honors nor recognition of any kind were accorded. He was buried in an unmarked grave in a church cemetery, there to remain and perhaps forever forgotten.

Fortunately, Brent Woods's story was not lost. Last Oct. 28, in his hometown of Somerset, Brent Woods was honored by Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr., and hundreds of fellow citizens for the heroism and courage he displayed more than a century ago.

Woods was born into a slave family in Somerset in 1855. It would be 10 years before he would taste freedom himself.

Later, as a free man in 1873, he joined the United States Army and was sent to Fort McKinney, Wyo., where he was assigned to the B Co. of the 9th Cavalry, known as the "Buffalo Soldiers," one of the most famous all-black units.

Woods became a sergeant and made his mark on American military history in 1881.

On Aug. 19, B Co. was pursuing renegade Apaches led by Chief Nana. They followed the Indians into New

Mexico to an area known as Gavilan Canyon.

When the company commander was mortally wounded during an ambush, it fell to Sgt. Woods as B Co.'s highest-ranking non-commissioned officer to take command. And take command he did.

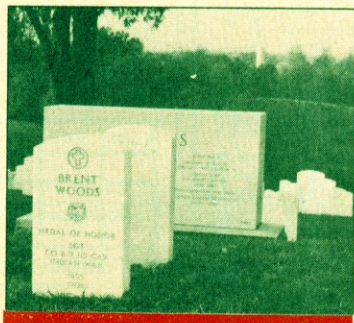
Sgt. Woods rallied his forces and demoralized the attacking Apaches, saving many military and civilian lives. Several eyewitnesses later wrote of his bravery and fighting skill. In 1894, Sgt. Woods received this nation's highest military award — the Medal of Honor.

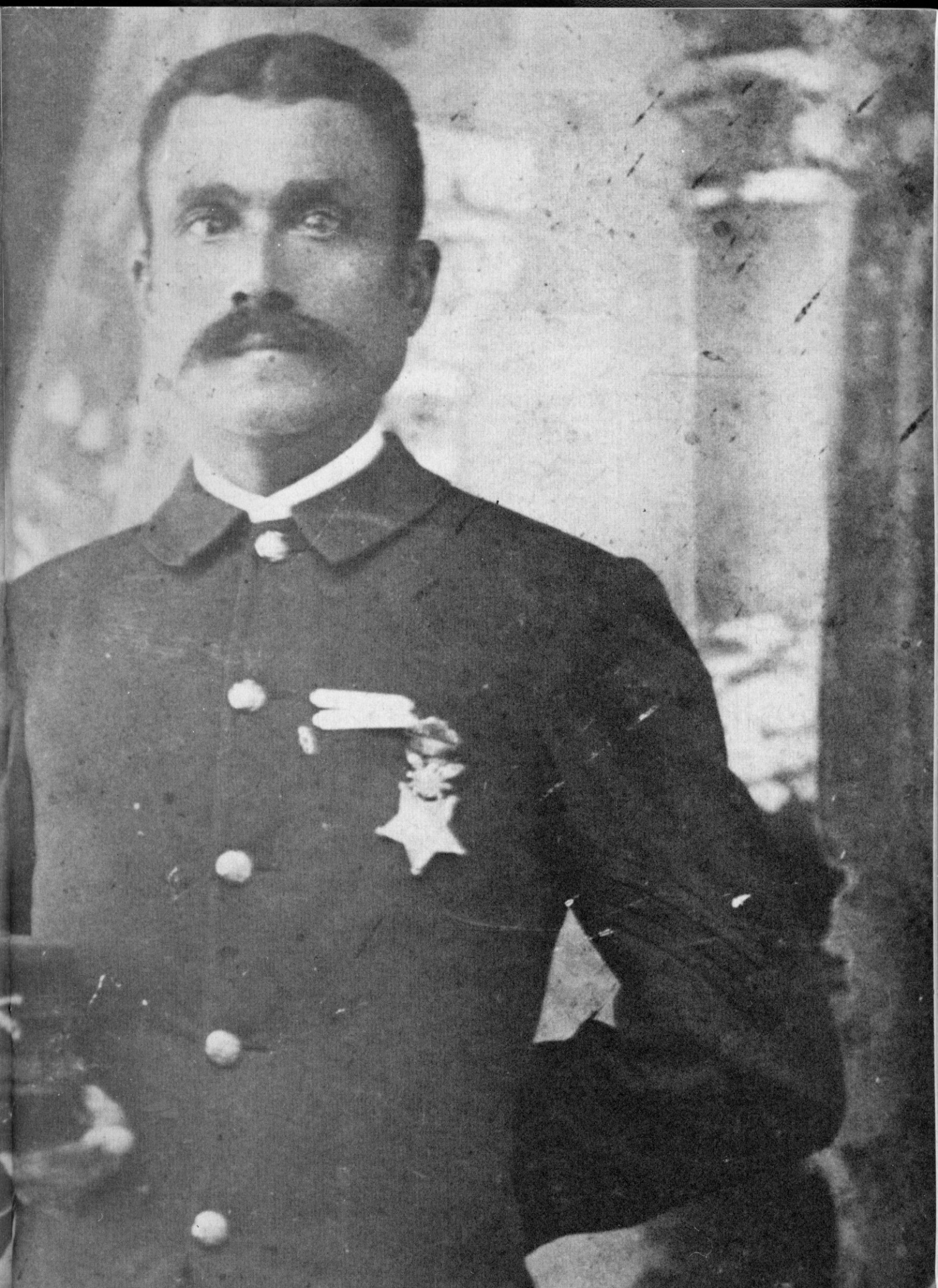
Yet, when Sgt. Woods retired in 1902 and returned to Somerset, he lived a quiet life with his wife, Pearl. His heroic exploits were unrecognized. He died of paralysis four years later. Army records indicate that his death was not even known by the Army until two months later, too late for any kind of ceremony — or so it seemed.

Brent Woods's story could have ended there in obscurity. But a few years ago, a Kentucky college student began researching a term paper on black Medal of Honor recipients. He read a book detailing Woods's heroics and

began contacting people in Somerset, including the local equal employment opportunity officer, Lorraine Smith. She became fascinated by Woods's story and researched his

continued on page 32

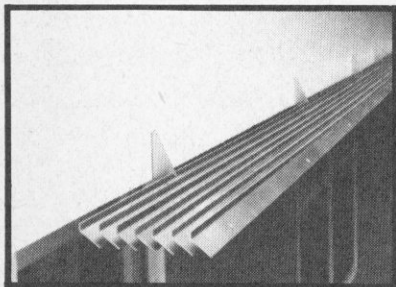




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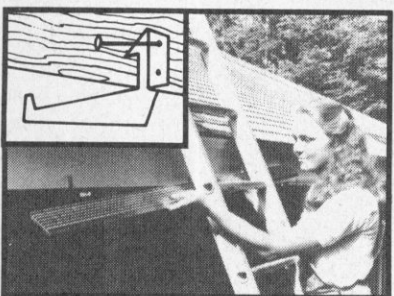
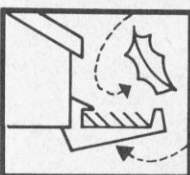
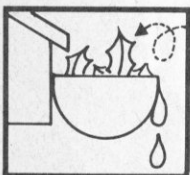
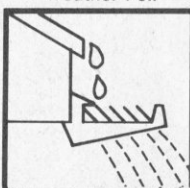
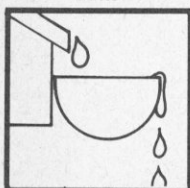
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BLACK HERO

continued from page 31

past. She also contacted my office in Somerset and together we began to unravel the details of Brent Woods's life.

During her research, Mrs. Smith had found and spoken to Brent Woods's widow, then Pearl Barker, who amazingly was still alive in a nursing home in Somerset. Lorraine asked Mrs. Woods if she knew about any medals Brent might have received. The widow showed Lorraine an old tarnished medal with a tattered ribbon, but indicated it did not have much meaning to her. Lorraine brought the medal to my office, where we later verified its authenticity as Brent Woods's Medal of Honor.

For two years, we worked to corroborate the facts and to plan for a formal military service for the hero.

Oct. 28 began as a rainy day in Somerset, but nothing could diminish our day of honor. In the local high school gym we began with a Freedom Rally honoring all veterans. A local Baptist choir sang patriotic music, and the Army band from Fort Knox played several anthems. A giant U.S. Flag was the backdrop as we honored not only Brent Woods, but all our veterans, past and present.

As part of the rally, Mrs. Smith gave me Brent Woods's medal. I then presented it to another veteran, Don Jenkins, of Morgantown, Ky., himself a Medal of Honor recipient in recognition of his heroism in Vietnam. He will now place the medal in the Hall of Heroes aboard the USS Intrepid in New York, where the Medal of Honor Society honors many medal recipients.

As our rally concluded, the audience joined the Army band in singing "God Bless America." I looked at the hundreds of faces, many streaked with tears, joining in this tribute to Brent Woods and all our veterans. It was impossible not to be moved by the sight and to feel pride in being an American.

Following the rally, Secretary Marsh and I led a solemn march, which included a black riderless horse, several blocks from the school to two veterans' monuments. There, he and I laid a wreath in memory of those who have died for the cause of freedom.

But the highlight of the day came later at the Mill Springs National

Cemetery, near Somerset, now the final resting place of Sgt. Brent Woods's remains.

In his remarks, Secretary Marsh spoke of the contributions made by black veterans since the Revolutionary War.

"Free men must sometimes go into the trenches for freedom," Secretary Marsh said. "Our history shows that when those times have come, the black soldier has replied, 'Here I am. Send me.'"

As I began my eulogy for Sgt. Woods, I looked out at the hundreds gathered on that quiet hillside in Kentucky.

"For Brent Woods to have remained in an unmarked, pauper's grave forever, unacknowledged and unappreciated, would have been a blot on America's record of fairness and reverence for its veterans. Like those who fought at Yorktown, Gettysburg, Flanders, Guadalcanal, Normandy, Pork Chop Hill, Khe Sanh and countless other battlefields, Brent Woods stood up and was counted for America.

"Just as it was a terrible plight for Brent Woods to have lived in slavery, so too would it have been an injustice for his heroism to have been forever forgotten, a 'slavery' from which we are emancipating him today.

"Brent Woods's heroism speaks to us across a century, across generations, across racial lines, across America. America is our great common denominator. Whatever we must do to protect and defend her, we must be prepared to do.

"By our words and deeds here today, Sgt. Brent Woods will never be forgotten by those who love liberty and who love America."

A detachment of seven soldiers from Fort Knox then fired three volleys. "Taps" were sounded again and the Flag which had been held above Woods's gravesite was folded and given to Mrs. Smith in appreciation of her work in helping make this day possible.

The sun, shining brightly after a day of rain, began setting on the hills which now properly honor one of our heroes. In this final resting place, Brent Woods will continue to be remembered and honored for generations to come.

About the Author

Harold Rogers is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Somerset, Ky.

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"Never glorified, the 15th's Liberators flew a hard and bloody war, and won it!" — Steve Birdsall in *Log of the Liberators*

by Dan B. McCarthy

WHO WERE THOSE COURAGEOUS AIRMEN OF THE 15TH AIR Force flying out of North Africa and Italy during WWII aboard B-24 Consolidated Liberator heavy bombers?

What dangers were theirs above Hitler's fortress Europe?

Where are the valiant men now who returned home victorious after combat?

Early November, 1983, some of those 15th crewmen, all assigned to the 449th Bombardment Group, flying perilous missions from the Grottaglie airstrip in the heel of Italy's boot, gathered at the Pima Air Museum just east of Tucson, Ariz.

They came to Tucson from across America for three reasons:

- In 1943, the 15th AF formed at Davis-Monthan AFB at Tucson and flew off to combat in the European Theater of Operations.

- The museum displays one of the half dozen B-24s still known to exist of the 18,482 produced between 1939 and 1945.

- This was the first time since WWII that some 300 veterans of the 449th were together again in a world whose peace they helped regain. A 40-year lapse didn't dampen their camaraderie.

Under 2nd Air Force general orders, the 449th Bombardment Group was activated at Davis-Monthan on May 1, 1943. Four squadrons — the 716th through 719th — were assigned 16 B-24s each for heavy bombing action against the Axis.

'FLYING HORSEMEN'

WWII's 449th Airmen Among B-24's Heroes

John L. Knaack, a member of Appleton, Wis., VFW Post 2278, flew 25 missions with the 716th as noseunner-armorer-toggler between Dec. 5, 1944 and early May, 1945.

"Toward the end of the war in Europe, we flew saturation bombing runs without bombardiers in the aircraft following the lead plane. When the lead ship bombardier dropped his bombs over target, all togglers in following ships released bombs, too," Knaack said. "I didn't use the Norden bombsight though."

Knaack was mustered out after WWII and retired in 1981 as a field service man and brazier for an Appleton wire works.

"I was 25 when I joined my crew. Soon

they were calling me 'Grandpa.' Of course, I was the 'old guy' aboard. Well, yesterday, I heard about a former 449th veteran here who is 76 now. He had to be about 36 or so in combat. That says something about American spirit!"

In Tucson, Knaack located the first pilot with whom he flew into combat, then 1st Lt. William O. Bivens, now a circuit court judge in Princeton, W. Va. Minutes later, Knaack, Bivens and their bombardier, James B. Miller of Greenville, S.C., talked excitedly under the starboard wing of the museum's B-24. Pointing to the outerwing edge just beyond the Number 4 engine, Bivens said:

"We caught a flak burst right up there. It tore a hole clear through the wing. You could've dropped a kitchen chair through it!"

"I'd been flying so carefully, keeping the ship tight in formation when I heard the explosion. I saw that rip in the wing and said to myself: 'A few more inches this way . . . those wing tanks would've been hit and this whole plane would've gone BA-LOOOOM! We're gonna go down,' I thought. But that Liberator just kept right in formation, engines not missing a beat.

"The damage didn't change the plane's flying characteristics one bit,"

Forty years after they crewed B-24 Liberators, these WWII 449th Bomb Group veterans visit Pima Air Museum, Tucson, Ariz., clamber aboard this rare B-24 Liberator and recall their missions.



Former 716 Squadron (449th BG) crewmen are from left John L. Knaack, Menasha, Wis.; William O. Bivens, Princeton, W. Va., and Merle Anderson, Citrus Heights, Calif. They met for the first time since their combat years of 1944-45 in November, 1983.

Bivens recalled. "They were sturdy aircraft."

Ex-bombardier Miller chimed in: "I was standing shoulder to shoulder with our navigator when that flak hit. A little piece of shrapnel missed him but cracked me just above my forehead in the hairline and scraped down across my nose. But I wasn't aware of the wing damage then. So, as blood trickled and my head ached, my first thought was: 'That damned Martin turret gunner up there just shot me in the head!' Of course, that wasn't possible with the gun's control system. But in combat you think strange thoughts occasionally. Later at base, we got a good laugh when I told that gunner what I had thought."

Warfare's risks surfaced, too, as crewmen swapped memories.

"On Christmas day, 1944," Bivens said, "we were on a 10-ship mission to Innsbruck in the Austrian Alps. Their 13,000-foot elevation ack-ack guns were placed on top of 7,000-foot mountains to begin with, and that's the way they'd get us for their advantage.

"Over Innsbruck a Liberator just blew up in front of us. So I took his place behind the lead ship. We'd come that far and I wasn't going to move off target

until our bombs were dropped.

"When the lead ship and I turned off target after the bomb run I looked back. We were the only two ships still flying. The fierce, accurate ack-ack had knocked down eight planes and crews."

Switzerland was a neutral country in WWII, a haven where crews landed more than 80 damaged B-24s and B-17s.

"I remember," Bivens said, "how some of the guys in a homebound, torn up ship radioed, 'So long. See 'ya later! We're going to Switzerland!'"

Malcolm Harper, of Los Angeles, a 719th noseunner whose B-24 was shot down on its 13th mission, was a POW for 14 months in Stalag Luft I near Barth in northern Germany on the Baltic Sea. Nazi guards called POWs "kriegsgefangenen." POWs preferred "kriegies."

"We had a replacement navigator on his first mission," Harper said. "We'd lost our regular just before our capture. We were bombing railroad marshaling yards at Balzano in northern Italy on March 29, 1944.

"With Number one and three engines knocked out, we were getting ready to bail out when the pilot asked the navigator for a final location check.

"If you can just hold on another three

minutes, that's Switzerland down there to the left. Sort of glide her in if you can," the navigator said.

Harper continued: "The truth in fact was that we were over northern Italy yet and we landed wheels down at a Luft-waffe base. All 10 of our crew became prisoners. The Nazis took our plane for propaganda purposes.

"When I got out of POW camp after the war, I felt great again, mentally free. But I was very hungry. I weighed only 115 pounds," said Harper, standing near the B-24 nose turret, his 1983 weight closer to 165 pounds.

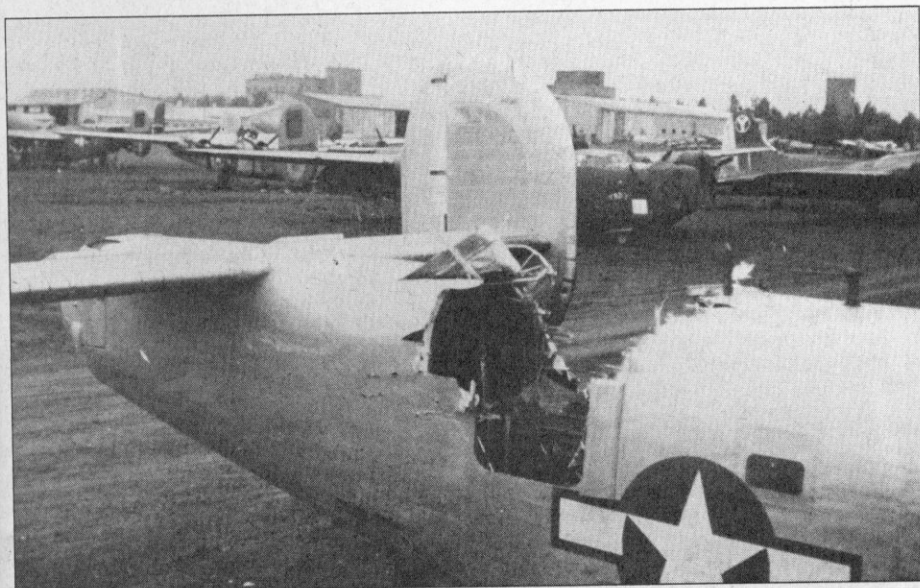
"This weekend is the first time I've been in contact with 449th people since 1944. Then, when I was 20 years old, these Liberators looked gigantic! And they were. Today, this one looks small compared to what's flying now . . . jumbo jets, C-5A cargo planes and the aging B-52s," Harper said.

Retired USAF Col. Jack Randolph of Ventura, Calif., was the 449th commanding officer who brought the group home after V-E Day. He retired in 1961 after 31 years of service.

"I was in the first class of flying cadets to graduate from Randolph Field, Texas, in July, 1931. Before I took command of the 449th in May of 1944, I had flown B-17 missions with the 463rd Bomb Group (H) based near Foggia, Italy." (Randolph Field was named to honor Capt. William M. Randolph, who lost his life flying as a member of the base site selection team.)

Of his 50 missions, Randolph recalls: "We'd been over Ploesti, Vienna, Innsbruck and other targets. This one, we were on a bridge-bustin' mission over Yugoslavia in August, 1944. An 88mm shell tore out the upper waist section of the B-24 beside me. We learned later

continued on page 36



A direct hit from an 88mm shell claimed the lives of both waist gunners, 717th Squadron, 449th Bomb Group in August, 1944, during a mission over Yugoslavia. Despite extensive damage, Lt. Leonard Ball, brought this B-24 into an emergency field at Bari, Italy. (449th BG Association photo.)

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HORSEMEN

continued from page 35

that both waist gunners died when the
shell exploded. Lt. Bernard Ball was the
pilot.

"I expected any minute for that plane
to break in two. We slowed formation to
give it some protection, staying with it
until Ball made an emergency wheels
down landing at Bari, Italy, north of our
base.

"B-24s were amazingly sturdy. Many
were shot up badly. Somehow, they got
us back home. I preferred to fly the Lib-
erators by far over the Flying For-
tresses," Randolph remarked.

During his 50 missions, Merle Ander-
son, of Citrus Heights, Calif., flew as
pilot of "Butchy Darlin'," named for his
wife. (Bivens's crew also flew several
missions in that Liberator.)

Anderson said of his combat: "We had
a lot of anti-aircraft hits on the plane.
Luckily, only one crewman received
minor injuries. In 50 missions we had
only one turnback — supercharger trou-
ble in an engine. But coming home we
hit an alternate target and didn't lose
the mission credit.

"Later, we had just boarded a troop

transport in Naples, starting home after
our tour on May 8, 1945, and the news of
V-E Day swept the ship!"

Richard F. Downey, 449th secretary
and a member of St. Louis, Mo., VFW
Post 1663, spearheaded bringing the
crewmen together, working two years to
locate 492 as of Dec. 1, 1983. And 217
arrived in Tucson. Downey, a 719th lead
bombardier, assists plans for the group's
second gathering in 1985. (His home
address is 4859 Stanhope Dr., St. Louis,
Mo. 63128.)

Don Lapham, of Solano Beach, Calif.,
a 719th co-pilot, was wounded in one of
his 37 missions. As 449th historian,
Lapham provided a WWII photo display
of 449th combat. It covered three walls of
a meeting room where crews spent hours
looking for "their outfit" in pictures.

They gathered too, those "Flying
Horsemen," to eulogize and pay tribute
to friends lost aboard "Fearless Fos-
dick," blown apart by direct ack-ack hit
in the Brenner Pass; "Brady's Gang"
aboard a B-24 knocked down over
Aviano, Italy, on Jan. 31, 1944; and
"Juanita" heroes, downed Jan. 16, 1944,
near Trieste after bombing Udine. And
those others of the 449th whose sacri-
fices were supreme.

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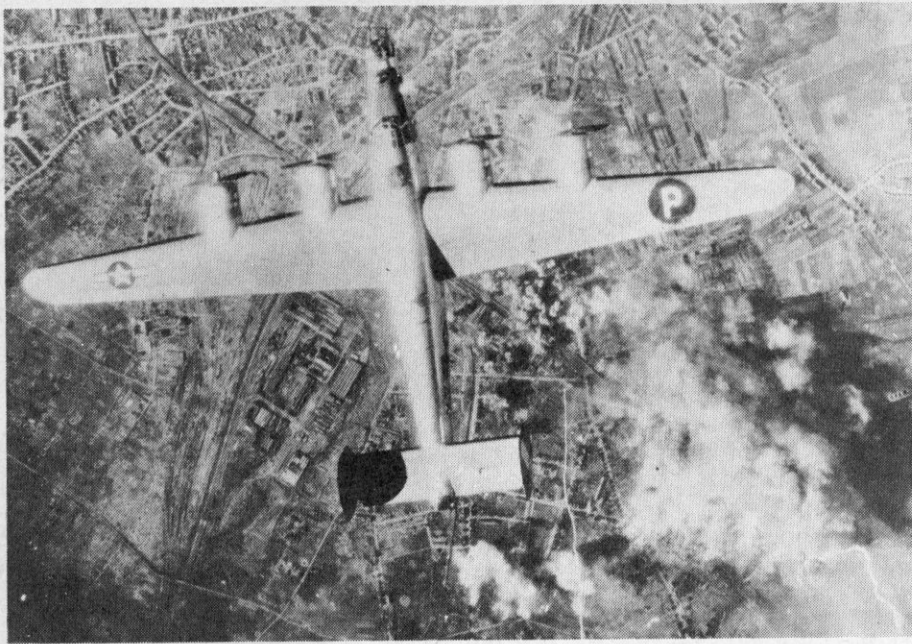
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This B-24 flies over smoke rising from rail lines after bombing a German city in March, 1945. (Air Force Photo)

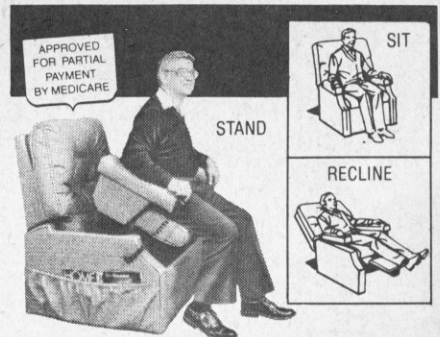
One pilot's 1983 nostalgic flight in Tucson carried him back those four decades . . .

"... the bomb run damage has taken its toll and the old Liberator wants to set down. So you lighten her up, check your fuel transfer, retrim, double your

prayers and nurse her home."

About the Author

Dan McCarthy, a freelance writer living in Arizona, has written frequently for VFW Magazine. He specializes in military history.



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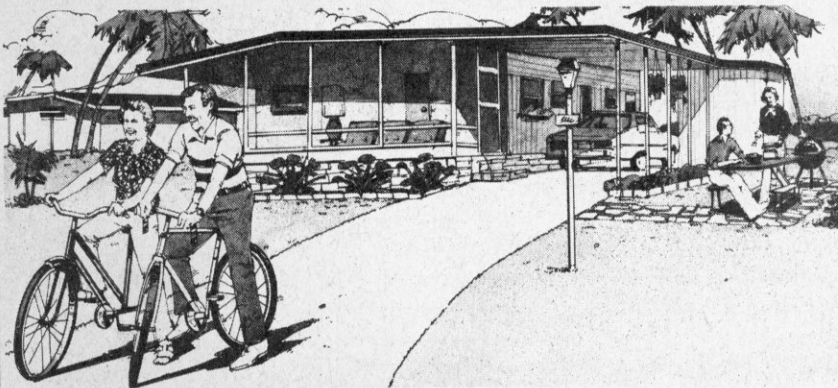
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THE 40-YEAR-OLD PLEXIGLAS ACRYLIC PLASTIC NOSE CONE FROM "The Swoose," fabled B-17D Flying Fortress that is the sole surviving bomber from the Pearl Harbor Day attack on the Philippines, has been restored under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

Historians at the museum say the bombardier's observation window was probably placed on the aircraft sometime during 1943. The one-piece bubble, designed for use on later model B-17s than "The Swoose," replaced the plane's original equipment nose which was a sectionalized, "greenhouse" construction.

The replacement part remained on the aircraft through thousands of hours of flying time and a lengthy stay in various storage locations before its removal for restoration by the museum's Paul E. Garber Facility in Suitland, Md.

The years of neglect in outdoor storage and more than 20 years in a Garber warehouse had left the plastic part visibly badly deteriorated. Five cracks had developed on the cone's outer surface; the tempered glass bombardier's viewing window had been shattered; a two-inch hole had been poked clear through the dome and the entire surface had been covered with an opaque coating of unknown origin.

"The condition of the refurbished nose is truly remarkable," says Walter Roderick, chief of production operations at the museum's Garber facility. "The fact that the structural integrity of the Plexiglas acrylic part has been maintained and a high degree of transparency restored is almost incredible when you consider that the cone was subjected to nearly 4,000 hours of flight time and then left unattended in outdoor storage for more than 16 years at Kingman, Ariz., Los Angeles, and Andrews Air Force Base before being sent to the Garber facility."

As in the case of many other World War II military aircraft, the nose cone was made from Plexiglas sheet produced at Bristol, Pa., and then fabricated by Rohm and Haas either there or at a special wartime defense facility the company set up at South Gate, Calif. Cockpit canopies, radomes and gun turrets also were of Plexiglas.

Complete restoration of "The Swoose"

'The Swoose' Lives

will not be undertaken for several years. In the meantime, the refurbished Plexiglas nose section was shipped to the Edward F. Beale Museum at Beale Air Force Base, Marysville, Calif., where it has been installed on a B-17-F on display at the facility.

The story of "The Swoose" is one of American ingenuity and courage.

About eight hours after the Dec. 7, 1941, bombing of Pearl Harbor, two huge formations of Japanese bombers with 27 planes in each V-shaped unit roared over Clark Field north of Manila on the Philippine Island of Luzon. Each aircraft dropped a dozen bombs.

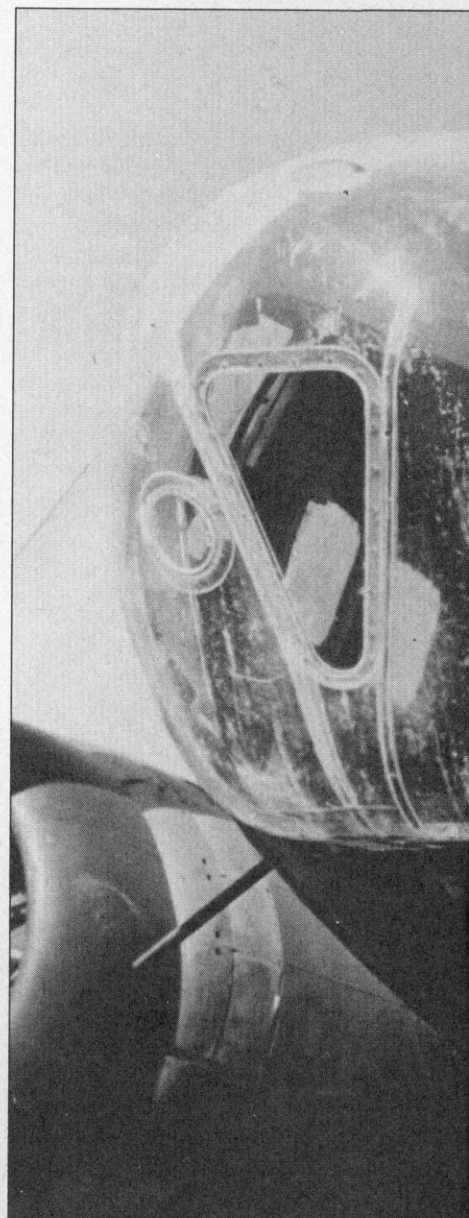
The bombers were followed by a long string of low-flying Nakajima and Zero fighter aircraft that strafed what was left of a squadron of 23 B-17 Flying Fortresses of the Army Air Corps.

Not one American bomber was left flyable. Out of the wreckage, industrious ground crewmen were able to piece together several operable B-17s by cannibalizing parts from planes damaged in the raid. Only one of these rebuilt ships survived the war.

The official B-17D designation of the aircraft means it was a bomber that was the 17th listed by the Army Air Corps. The "D" refers to its fourth modification. Her number, 40-3097, indicates the plane was accepted for service in 1940 and assigned a four-digit serial number. But that was just for military records.

No longer resembling the sleek Flying

The "Swoose's" nose cone shows its clarity restored to the Plexiglas part. Nose cone was subjected to 4,000 hours of flight time and 40 years of neglect.



Fortress from whose parts it was assembled, the B-17 was dubbed "The Swoose" soon after being returned to flying status. The christening took place in New South Wales, Australia, where the plane had undergone still more jerry-rigging to replace a tail section damaged in a bombing raid.

The name derived from a nonsense song of the time, "Alexander the swoose

... half swan, half goose." To assure skeptics who might have thought otherwise, someone had lettered "It Flies" under the painting of the odd-looking bird that adorned the forward fuselage.

"The Swoose" flew for more than 150 combat hours in making runs against enemy shipping from Mindanao and Java. It also participated in many heroic rescue missions to retrieve Allied per-

sonnel and materiel as forces retreated from the advancing Japanese.

When improved B-17Es arrived from the States in late 1942, "The Swoose," already something of a legend as the sole surviving B-17D in the theater, was "retired" to transport duty as the command plane for Lt. Gen. George H. Brett, commander of U.S. Army Air Forces in Australia. She would put in more than 4,000 flight hours in this capacity and visit 34 countries in the Far East and Central and South America during the balance of World War II. The countries "The Swoose" visited are duly inscribed on her fuselage.

She carried many high-ranking military officers during her transport duties, including one described by a crewman as a "big, lanky guy from Texas." The Texan turned out to be then U.S. Navy Cmdr. Lyndon B. Johnson, on leave from a term in Congress, who was aboard a flight which had to make an emergency landing in a sheep pasture near Winton, Australia.

When Gen. Brett was recalled to the States in mid-1942, he decided to take "The Swoose" with him. With Capt. Frank Kurtz at the controls, the bomber set a new Australia to Washington, D.C., speed record of 36 hours.

Along with many other outdated aircraft, "The Swoose" was consigned to Kingman, Ariz., for demolition following the war. She was rescued from that fate by Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles. She was flown to the West Coast city by now Col. Kurtz and acclaimed as a war memorial. In 1949, "The Swoose" was presented to the National Air and Space Museum by the city of Los Angeles. ■



By Sp4 Vonny Rohloff

The 3rd Infantry (Old Guard) is eight years younger than the United States.

From all over the country former and present members of the 3rd Infantry, their families and friends gathered at Fort Snelling, Minn., to commemorate the bravery and courage that represent this famous old regiment.

The Minnesota units planned and carried out the activities last fall that included a memorial service at Ft. Snelling's Memorial Chapel, a wreath-laying ceremony at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, the dedication of a statue, a military review at Historic Ft. Snelling and a battalion competition.

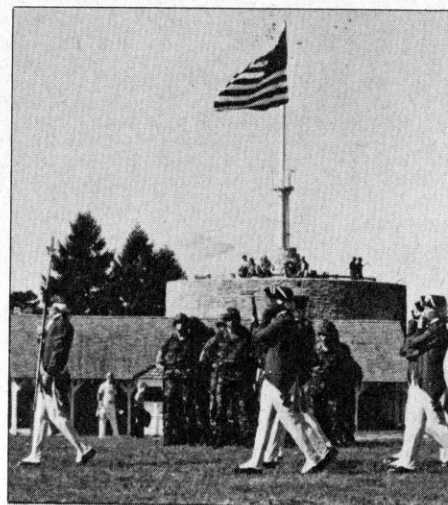
Dressed in red coats and white pants and wearing white wigs, representatives from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry Fife and Drum Corps and color bearers presented their Flags and music throughout the day's festivities.

'Old Guard' Is 200

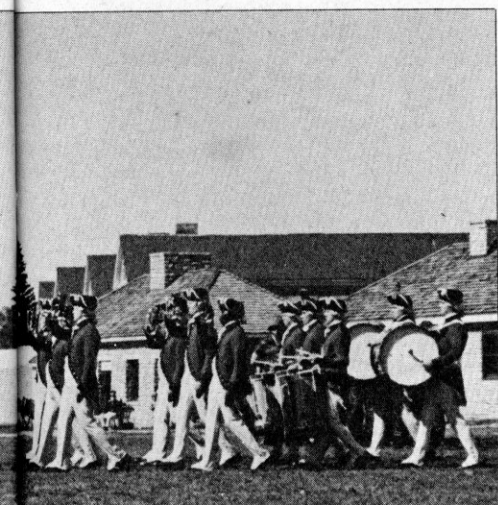
The active duty unit is stationed at Ft. Myer, Va., and performs ceremonial duties at wreath-laying ceremonies, parades and funerals. But these are only part of the soldiers' function. They also maintain combat readiness and provide security for the Capitol in case of a national emergency or

civil disturbance and primary support for White House functions.

The 3rd Infantry was formed just after the Revolutionary War. Gen. George Washington resigned his command of the Continental Army and began discharging the troops. Shortly afterward Congress realized the



An anti-tank TOW as part of the battalion competition is assembled as other members and spectators look on. (Army Photo.)



The old and the new meet at Historic Fort Snelling near St. Paul, as the 3rd Infantry's 1st Battalion Fife and Drum Corps parade in front of reservist members of the 3rd Battalion. (Army Photo.)

country needed soldiers in the face of the continued danger from the British and Indians.

Congress resolved on June 3, 1784, to establish a "body of troops to consist of 700 noncommissioned officers and privates properly officered." Thus the 3rd United States Infantry was born.

Throughout its lineage, the 3rd's units served in many areas of the U.S.—the Ohio River, in Missouri, New Mexico Territory, Indian Territory, Montana and even Alaska. They participated in many wars—the Indian Wars, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War II and the Vietnam War.

The 3rd Infantry, also known as "Minnesota's Own" since many of its personnel came from that section of the country, served at Ft. Snelling from 1888 to 1898 and again from 1921 to 1941. Reactivated in 1948, the 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry, was assigned to Virginia as the ceremonial unit of the Army. Then, in 1963, the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, was assigned to Minnesota as part of the organization of the Army Reserve's 205th Infantry Brigade.

To honor the 200th anniversary of the Old Guard, artist James McNeely was commissioned to create a bronze statue. Entitled "With Bayonets Poised," the work of art was dedicated at Historic Fort Snelling where it is being kept on permanent display.

The statue depicts a 3rd Infantry soldier of the Mexican War era. His bayonet is poised as it was during the storming of Chapultepec, the final citadel en route to Mexico City. This brilliant charge earned the 3rd the

honor of marching with fixed bayonets, a tradition that still continues today.

Another tradition for the 3rd was established during the triumphant march into Mexico City. Gen. Winfield Scott turned to his staff as the victorious 3rd passed in review and said, "Gentlemen, take off your hats to the Old Guard of the Army." This is the origin of the nickname that remains with the unit.

Historic Fort Snelling was the setting for a spectacular review of the Minnesota and Virginia units. While the 451st Army Reserve Band played

and spectators snapped pictures, the field became a display area filled with rows of 3rd Infantry soldiers. Afternoon highlights pitted representatives from each of the Minnesota units against one another in contests of military skills.

The 3rd Infantry reassembled for closing ceremonies on Fort Snelling's polo grounds to stand in formation just as many former 3rd Infantrymen had stood in past reviews. Airplanes flew overhead now, and their uniforms were different, but the traditions and excellence characterizing the Old Guard remain unchanged. ■



Youngsters ask a reservist questions at the battalion competition, part of the 200th anniversary celebration of the 3rd Infantry. (Army Photo.)

Hope for Cataract Victims

By Paul Martin

Until recently, a cataract operation sentenced the patient to a lifetime of wearing thick-lensed glasses that provided poor vision and general inconvenience.

Fortunately for men and women who face cataract surgery today, advanced technology has revolutionized the process with a permanent lens implant.

"The specially designed plastic lens, implanted in the eye at the time of the

operation, gives the individual vision comparable to what he or she had before cataracts developed," explains Dr. Robert Gorsich, a Downers Grove, Ill., ophthalmologist. "The lens is made of purified plastic and avoids the distortion and reduced visual field associated with cataract glasses, as well as the inconvenience of contact lenses."

Cataract sufferers are understandably delighted with this new development. Said one, "Just as the doctor told me, my vision is as good as it was

before cataracts formed. I had a real fear of wearing those ugly cataract glasses after the operation, because my appearance is important to me. Today, I see well, work well and enjoy life in ways that would have been impossible without the surgery and lens implant."

The new technique was perfected in the last 10 years, and today lens implants are providing good vision for thousands of men and women benefiting from this advanced approach.

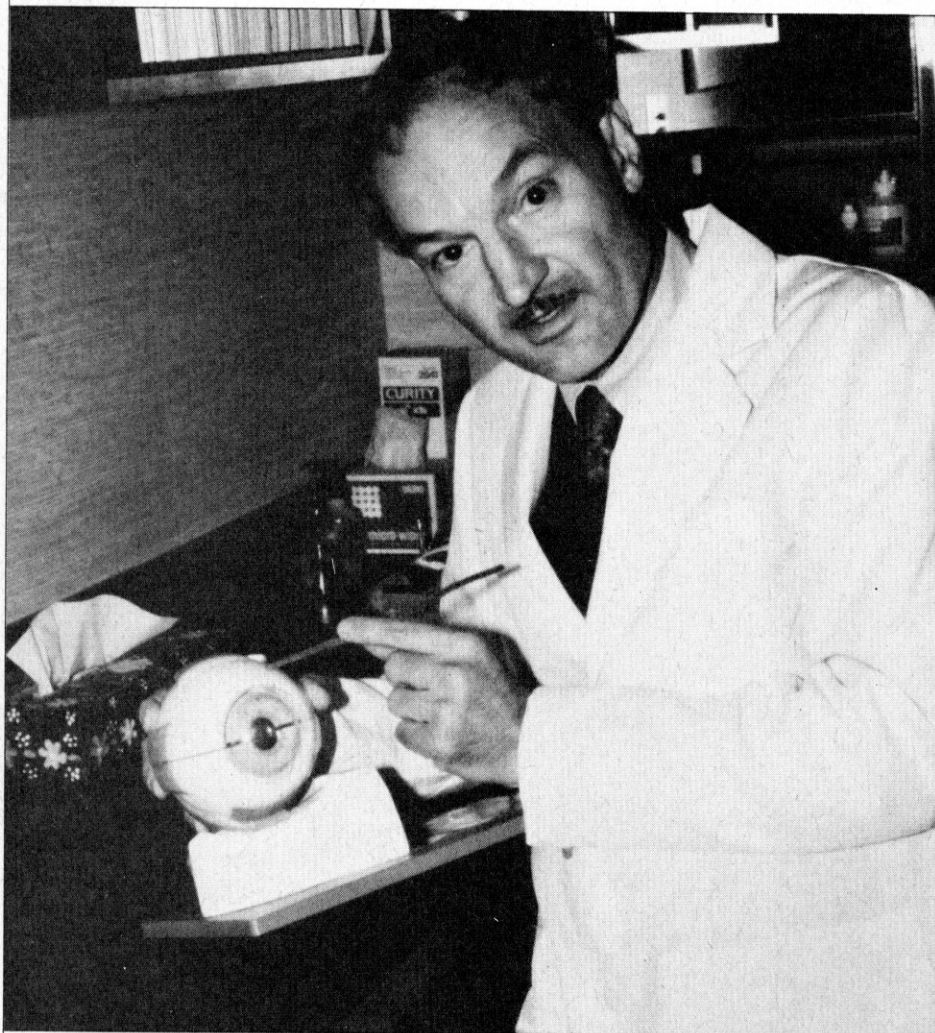
Cataracts are a common, and possibly disabling, condition in which part, or all, of the lens becomes clouded. Usually the result of aging, they can cause severely impaired vision and even blindness.

Often the stress and poor nutrition that accompany a severe illness may cause a slowly developing cataract to progress more rapidly. In this kind of situation an optimum intake of necessary vitamins and minerals is critical.

When cataracts begin to form, they may severely reduce vision. On the other hand, they may remain stationary and localized for years without causing serious disability. Sometimes the individual is not even aware of the condition. If the cloudiness covers a large area, is dense or at the center of the lens, vision will be sharply restricted. This will generally interfere with a person's ability to function and the lens is removed by surgery. A fairly common procedure, an estimated 525,000 cataract operations were performed in 1982.

One of Dr. Gorsich's patients, a man in his 70s, had worn thick glasses since he was 4 years old because of severe nearsightedness. After developing cataracts, he was unable to drive.

Dr. Gorsich removed the cataract from the man's right eye, and eight months later removed the cataract from the left, implanting a lens in each instance. Using ultrasound and putting the information in a computer, Dr. Gorsich was able to calculate the power necessary to design a



A Downers Grove, Ill., eye specialist, Dr. Robert Gorsich has performed hundreds of cataract operations and lens implants in the past 10 years. "The lens implant after cataract surgery is a major break-through," says Dr. Gorsich. "It improves the quality of life for a person and makes the years far more enjoyable."

lens to bring the eye to optimum vision and partially correct the basic eye defect.

"It's incredible," said the man, "but after the operation I could pass a driver's test without glasses. For the first time since I was 4 years old I can walk around without glasses. It's like being given a new life when I'm 70 years old."

Another development enables patients to "see" in advance just what their vision will be after cataract surgery. With the new method, a standard eye chart is beamed through tiny cataract-free spots in the lens, smaller than four-100ths of an inch, directly onto the patient's retina. The retina is the eye's innermost seeing membrane. A study at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore showed that this test was 96% accurate within one line on the chart in predicting vision with implanted lenses or contacts after surgery.

In only five of 118 eyes studied was vision worse than the test indicated. This was caused by surgical complications in three patients, but it could not be explained in the cases of the other two.

Another advantage of this method is that it helps doctors determine whether a patient is having difficulty seeing because of a cataract or because of degeneration of the macula, the center of vision in the retina. If the reason is macular degeneration, which is the most common cause of blindness in people over 60, then it is possible that cataract surgery will not help the patient.

Dr. Gorsich points out that recent improvements in medical techniques have made cataract operations far simpler than they were 20 years ago. For instance, it is no longer necessary to wait until the cataract "ripens." The lens is implanted at the time the cataract is removed, and recovery is far quicker than it used to be. Formerly, the patient would be forced to lie immobile for days after the surgery. Today, he or she is up within two or three days and resuming normal living soon after that.

Dr. Gorsich is a highly skilled

continued on page 44

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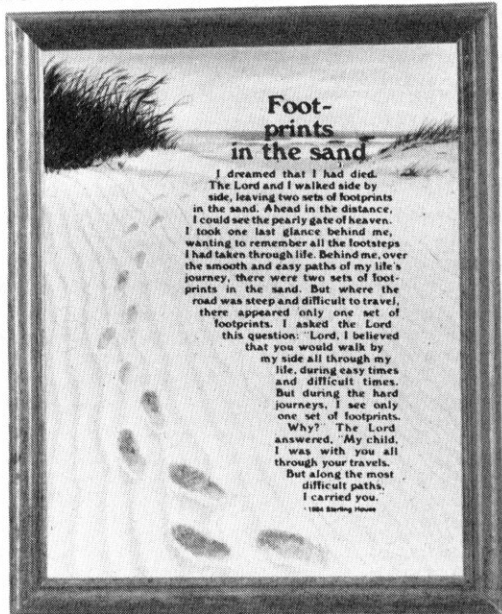
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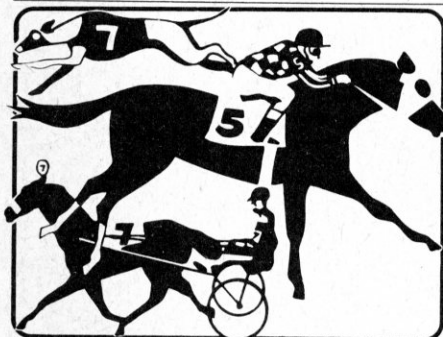
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CATARACTS

continued from page 43

photographer and has written, directed and produced two films involving eye surgery. One film educates patients about cataracts and their treatment, including intraocular lens implantation. It shows the entire procedure with a step-by-step description of precisely how it is done from beginning to successful completion.

Dr. Gorsich has performed hundreds of lens implants and is a founding member of the American Intraocular Lens Implant Society. In 1979, at the invitation of the Bolivian Medical Society, he lectured on lens implants at the group's 10th Annual Medical Conference in Santa Cruz. He was instrumental in gathering more than \$50,000 worth of medical supplies to contribute to the public hospital there.

"The lens implant after cataract surgery is a major breakthrough in treating this common condition," says Dr. Gorsich. "It improves the quality of life for a person and makes the years ahead far more enjoyable. Naturally, many patients who do not yet suffer from cataracts want to know if there's any way to avoid them, or at least slow their appearance.

"I think that nutrition is very important here. For example, Vitamin D deficiency has been linked to cataracts. As a person grows older, Vitamin D intake should be kept at an optimum level. Animal fat, cod liver oil and halibut oil are all rich in Vitamin D, and can keep a person's supply of the vitamin at a degree that may be a safeguard against cataract development."

Scientists have long pointed to the role of Vitamin A in eye health. While there may be no direct evidence of its place in preventing or slowing cataract development, an adequate intake could be helpful. Fish, cod liver oil, egg yolk and milk are rich sources of A.

Vitamin C, which is especially abundant in fresh fruits and vegetables, is important in lens metabolism and could be a factor in avoiding cataracts. Even though a question may exist on precisely how effective this can be as an aid in cataract prevention, some nutritionists feel it should be taken in sufficient amounts to serve as "nutritional insurance."

Although cataracts generally accompany aging and are usually the province of the elderly, extensive evidence points to X rays as a culprit in the cataracts among younger persons. Technicians who have been inadequately protected may be affected, as well as patients treated with X rays for malignant conditions near the eye.

Stress has been implicated as a culprit in many diseases. Physicians suspect it may have a link with cataract development. As Dr. Gorsich pointed out earlier, when an individual already has a cataract and then becomes ill, the cataract may rapidly worsen as a result of his sickness and diminished resistance.

"Certainly," says Dr. Gorsich, "stress is a factor in so many health problems that it should be considered when looking at ways to reduce risks of developing a cataract. Many simple and highly effective ways are available to deal with stress and keep it down to manageable levels. Basic methods such as regular exercise, good diet, sufficient rest and perhaps meditation can help a person stay in better health by keeping stress at a minimum."

No matter what a man or woman may do to prevent them, cataracts may develop, however. The new technique means they can still enjoy many productive years of good eyesight.

Significantly, the lens implant can be used when cataract surgery had occurred some years before without an implant. A man we'll call George Stevens came to Dr. Gorsich in June, 1983. George's cataracts had been removed by another physician in 1973 and 1976, but George had not seen properly since the surgery.

In June, 1983, Dr. Gorsich operated on the left eye and implanted a lens designed precisely for George Stevens' visual need. In December, 1983, Dr. Gorsich implanted a lens in the right eye. Today, with mild bifocals, George's vision is 20/25, a miracle of modern medical techniques.

Highly effective and relatively simple, the new method enables cataract sufferers to look forward to many years of useful, enjoyable living. Golf, tennis, swimming, dancing, fishing, hunting, sightseeing—they're all in the future for men and women able to move from a cataract-clouded world into the sunshine.

About the author

Paul Martin specializes in medical and scientific articles.

Restoration and preservation of a memorial to the doughboys and sailors who served their country during World War I is a project assumed by **Post 3596** Plains, Mont., recently. The memorial is a 93-foot by 132-foot banner on which the names of local men had been affixed to stars.

The flag was started by a group of ladies affiliated with the American Red Cross and when dedicated Feb. 22, 1917, contained 48 stars, each one identifying a Plains youth who was in the service. As WW I continued, additions were made when more men enlisted or were called up by the draft. The project concluded probably late in 1918. By then the flag was emblazoned with 106 stars.

During the 66 years that have elapsed since the end of that conflict, time and wear have made many of the names illegible. In order to identify the stars on which the names had become obliterated, 104 copies of the local newspaper were studied to find names of those in the service during 1917 through 1918. An article in one issue, headlined "Here Is Your Draft Number," listed 694 Sanders County, Mont., registrants along with the town in which they resided. The article also specified criteria under which a man might claim an exemption.

Efforts to restore and preserve the historic banner were begun by members of **Post 3596**, who feel their comrades of an earlier era should never be forgotten. Without doubt, the service flag is a relic of considerable significance and probably a rarity. It had been in the custody of the Veterans of WWI Barracks, which ceased to exist a few years ago because of the inevitable thinning of membership ranks. In its restored state, the flag will be the property of the Plains veterans' organization and may be viewed as soon as a suitable repository can be provided.

(This information was supplied by Past Commander W.W. [Mike] Scott, of **Post 3596**.)

Leo M. Kelly, Sr., a member of **Post 1529**, Baltimore, Md., and a 91-year-old veteran patient and nursing home care unit resident at the Fort Howard VA Medical Center, was formally



These World War I veterans, members of **Post 3596**, Plains, Mont., pose with a banner dating from 1917 and bearing the names of Plains area men who served in that conflict. Although they are not listed on the flag, they are Ole Allestad, Fred Starnier, Joe Keller and James Arnold. The **Post** has restored this bit of memorabilia. Not shown is Patrick G. Cox, a **Post** member who is identified on one of the stars.

honored during a special ceremony held recently in the facility's recreation hall.

For over 50 years of outstanding and unselfish service rendered to the veteran population of Maryland, he was awarded the Maryland Veterans Commission's Citation for Meritorious Service and Loyal Cooperation, presented by John H. Eaton, the commis-

sion's executive officer. Eaton also presented Kelly with a special citation from Gov. Harry Hughes and Secretary of State Lorraine Sheehan in appreciation of his many years of loyal and dedicated service to the citizens of Maryland.

Other presentations made to him

continued on page 46



Seated, Leo M. Kelly, Sr., was honored on his 91st birthday at the Fort Howard VA Medical Center nursing home care unit, near Baltimore, Md., for his service to his state and its veterans. Others shown are identified in accompanying story. (VA Photo.)

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IN THE FIELD

continued from page 45

included a Supreme Citation from the Military Order of the Cootie's Supreme Pup Tent and a life membership in the Military Order of the Cootie, presented by Seam Squirrel Marion Pugh and Past Seam Squirrel Leon J. Derrickson, both from MOC Pup Tent No. 1; a VFW State and National Citation; a 50-year VFW Lapel Pin and a Citation of Merit from the VFW Department of Maryland, presented by Charles A. Kreatchman, Past MOC Grand Commander of the Department of Maryland. Kelly is a Past Grand Commander of the MOC.

He also received a special birthday greeting from President Ronald Reagan and Mrs. Reagan. The greeting was presented to him by Past Grand Commander Kreatchman.

Also taking part in the ceremony were the director of the Fort Howard VA Medical Center, Robert Haith, Jr., and Arden Koski, Assistant State Treasurer, MOC Grand of Maryland.

While he was in Kansas City recently, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron presented a VFW citation to Police Officer Glenn Harmon for his heroism on Dec. 10 in rescuing three children from their burning home.

Harmon discovered the fire while he was on a routine patrol. Alerted by smoke, he notified the fire department and arrived at the burning house to find a woman and four children in the front yard.

Assured everyone was safely out of the house, he heard sobbing and screaming from within the building. He kicked in a window, discovered three children and brought them to safety.

The award presentation was carried on the evening news of Kansas City's Channel 9.

Six men involved in law enforcement, fire protection and rescue service have been honored by **Post 632** in Harrisonburg, Va., with citations.

They are Rockingham County Sheriff Glenn M. Weatherhoz, State Trooper Gary Wilson, Harrisonburg Police Officer James W. Fleming, Firefighters Ivan Long and Russ Barr and Rescue Squad Vice President Norlyn Senger. Awards were presented by Post Commander Alton

Marston, Jr. Vice Commander James F. Werner was awards chairman.

A seventh Harrisonburg policeman, Paul N. Rodeffer, was cited for "meritorious and distinguished service" when he dragged an 84-year-old man from his burning home on Dec. 14.

The Department of Virginia award to Rodeffer was presented at a meeting of the Harrisonburg City Council by Past State Commander Gen. Wiseman and Werner.

The Department of Virginia also awarded a citation of appreciation to Dunham-Bush, Inc., Harrisburg, and William B. Wise III, its supervisor of employee relations, for the company's policy of recruiting, employing and promoting veterans.

Once near collapse and with its home up for sale, **Post 916** in Wakefield, R.I., has recovered to the point where it recently donated \$2,600 to a fund for county needy children.

Three years ago, the members decided to fight to save the Post and they won by successfully recruiting new members and have brought in needed cash by holding a lottery that pays \$1,250 each month in prizes.

The lottery, limited to 500 persons who donate \$5 a month to the Post, was agreed upon by Post members who took a cue from a church in a nearby town.

State and local police approved the formation of the Grand-A-Month Club. The Post must apply for the lottery's license renewal every three months.

The Post tries to put at least \$300 a month aside for the Washington County Needy Children's Christmas Fund, but \$1,000 had to go to the purchase of a new furnace.

Even though the contribution is \$1,000 less than last year's, it is more than the fund has been able to collect for holiday gifts, said Ann Barlow, its co-director.

Post 916 has 174 members and its Commander is Charles H. King.

The carving on a rock on Iwo Jima of the Flag-raising there 40 years ago has been identified as the work of W.T. Rich, a member of Co. B of the 31st Seabee Battalion. A picture of the work appeared in the February issue on page 35. The sculptor's name was supplied by Eugene Vance, a member of **Post 1186**, Independence, Kans., who served with Rich. The 31st was attached to the 5th Marine Division and went ashore with it on Iwo. Rich's last address was Englewood, Calif.

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Purchase Power Computa-Phone Update

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Please make a note.

New phone numbers for typewriters: 800-645-4726; upstate New York, 800-237-2260; downstate New York, 516-221-8800.

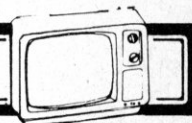
New programs recently added to the Purchase Power Computa-Phone System are electronic musical instruments: guitars; drums; portable keyboards; electronic pianos; table-top organs; synthesizers; amplifiers; and public address systems. Phone numbers are 800-526-0014; in New York, 800-292-2722.

Lamps and lighting: lamps, chandeliers, track and outdoor. Phone numbers are 800-468-1707; in Pennsylvania, 215-395-1510.

Remember, be sure to have your membership ID handy whenever you call a participating Computa-Phone vendor and be ready to give the VFW group number and your own confidential member number. ■



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An \$8,000 contribution is given the Central New York Regional Oncology Center by Post 5540 and its Auxiliary, Phoenix, N.Y. Making the presentation are Cancer Day Co-chairmen Bill Austen and Pat Radone, Dr. Bernard Poiesz, center director; Auxiliary President Lynn Halstead and Post Commander Malcolm Weston.



Deborah Berlied receives the David R. Woodin Memorial Scholarship from Robert Woodin, Jr., on behalf of Post 10336, Concord, Mass. Looking on are Post Jr. Vice Commander Donald Gresham, Mrs. Woodin and Post Chaplain John J. Casey.



Dan Wenborne (second from left), of the Madison, Wis., Fire Department, receives an award from Post 1318 and Auxiliary for aid to their Learn Not to Burn program. With him are Auxiliary Jr. Vice President Meg Carlson, Past Youth Activities Chairman Ollie Roisum and Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Dorothy Hilgers.



A member of Post 283, Kingston, Pa., Alfred L. Fox, receives a gift from the Post presented by Commander Ed Feistl on his 91st birthday. Chaplain Emeritus of the Post for more than 25 years, Feistl was Commander in 1928-29.



Ohio Department Commander Glen Rohr and Commander James Hampe, of Post 693, Canton, distribute checks to Salvation Army Maj. Willis Muir, Canton Ex-Newsboys Secretary Walter McCrae and students Charles Province and Scott Thewes. The first two were for \$1,000 each. The students received \$500 apiece for college expenses. The Post has contributed \$4,050 to local charities and VFW programs.



Past Commander Danny Wambolt, of Post 1788, Rockland, Mass., presents petitions to Post Commander Fred St. Onge in support of a high school teacher who was critical of a student who refused to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Support was expressed by other VFW Posts in the area, other veterans' and fraternal organizations, labor unions, local bank employees, private citizens and persons from outside the state.



Outstanding service to veterans by helping them get work is recognized by Post 9969, Del City, Okla., with presentation of a U.S. Savings Bond by Post Commander Al Konrath to Morgan Curry, senior interviewer at the Midwest City-Del City Job Service Office.



Commander Cliff Hepburn, of Post 10129, Oceanport, N.J., unveils a monument erected by the Post to area residents who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Department Commanders-of-the-Month

December



DIV. I

Glen A. Rohr (2)
Ohio



DIV. II

Patrick Bohmer (5)
Minnesota



DIV. III

Wayne Smith (2)
Indiana



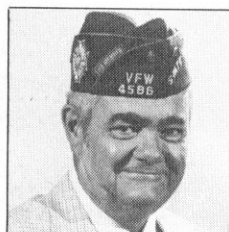
DIV. IV

Casimir (Charles)
Lukoski (5)
Maryland



DIV. V

George E. McCracken (2)
Virginia



DIV. VI

Alva D. Nash (4)
Louisiana



DIV. VII

Kenneth L. Nelson (3)
South Dakota



DIV. VIII

Arthur Streed (4)
North Dakota



DIV. IX

Robert Smith (5)
Alaska



DIV. X

Edward Stewart (3)
Hawaii

(Parenthetical number indicates times Commander has won this honor.)

national aides-de-camp

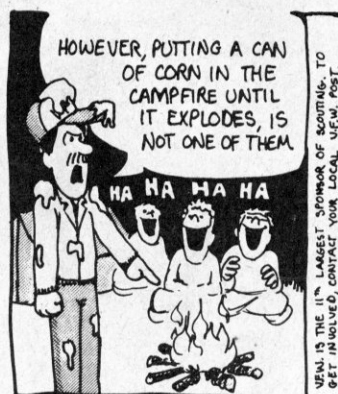
The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of January, 1985. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new or reinstated members, or any combination of both totalling 50.

John H. Adams, Post 1590, Deland, Fla.; Jack C. Maddox, Post 3200, Augusta, Calif.;

Johnny Harris, Post 7101, Crab Orchard, Ky.; James R. McMullin, Post 3620, Gloucester, N.J.; Allan E. Davenport, Post 1019, Troy, N.Y.; Mike Rock, Post 943, Ashtabula, Ohio; Manuel Mays, Post 9191, Temple, Texas; Robert K. Henne, Post 2473, Clearwater, Fla.; Howard J. Adelmann, Post 5788, Lockport, Ill.; Robert A. Schulenburg, Post 5141, Muscatine, Iowa; Charles E. Kirkland, Post 7253, Derby, Kan.; Edward W. Parks, Post

2188, Middleboro, Mass.; Frank L. Baker, Post 555, Richfield, Minn.; James T. Baker, Post 3937, Long Beach, Miss.; Oliver H. Carrow, Post 3777, Festus, Mo.; Vern Hoffart, Post 131, Lincoln, Neb.; Dwaine Wilson, Post 1652, McCook, Neb.; Cecil Reichstein, Post 10562, Hastings, Neb.; Earl Stiner, Post 3421, Omaha, Neb.; William D. Bell and Delbert L. Truman, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas, and Paul E. Puckett, Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.

Marty



District Commanders-of-the-Month

December

DIV. I
District 8
Indiana
Wilford McDaniel (5)

DIV. II
District 21
Florida
Harry E. Burroughs

DIV. III
District 5
Indiana
James M. Leavitt

DIV. IV
District 19
Florida
Roscoe R. Staley (2)

DIV. V
District 20
California
Tom Pearson (2)

DIV. VI
District 2
Maryland
Douglas Powell (2)

DIV. VII
District 3
South Carolina
William H. Chapman (2)

DIV. VIII
District 14
Arkansas
Perry Hickman (5)

Post Commanders-of-the-Month

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Orbit Scott (5)

DIV. II
Post 2539
Mississippi
Lionel Lamberg

DIV. III
Post 6712
Massachusetts
Vincent P. Reed, Jr.

DIV. IV
Post 9223
California
Elbert C. Theisen (2)

DIV. V
Post 4809
Virginia
Walter G. Bryan (4)

DIV. VI
Post 8463
Florida
Nicholas A. Duva (4)

DIV. VII
Post 4667
Virginia
Marshall E. Guy (5)

DIV. VIII
Post 2097
Connecticut
Michael T. Gorman

DIV. IX
Post 6180
Florida
Peter Puentes (2)

DIV. X
Post 2435
Pennsylvania
Clyde Kraft (2)

DIV. XI
Post 3620
New Jersey
John R. Murray (2)

DIV. XII
Post 10252
Alaska
Vernon L. Jones (4)

DIV. XIII
Post 6480
North Carolina
Bobby G. Canupp (2)

DIV. XIV
Post 2869
Arkansas
Robert G. Tucker (3)

DIV. XV
Post 7721
Florida
Clarence J. Smuder (3)

DIV. XVI
Post 1932
California
Ernest A. Sanford

DIV. XVII
Post 9808
Virginia
Charles B. Wilkerson

DIV. XVIII
Post 4517
Arkansas
Bobby D. Hoggard (3)

DIV. XIX
Post 4638
Alabama
Roosevelt Parker

DIV. XX
Post 2728
Kentucky
Larry Hicks (4)

(Parenthetical number indicates times Commander has won this honor.)

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Jan. 31, 1985.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 92.24%

1	ALASKA	100.69
2	Ohio	96.48
3	Virginia	96.18
4	North Dakota	96.11
5	Indiana	96.09
6	Nebraska	95.80
7	South Dakota	95.70
8	Minnesota	95.09
9	Maryland	95.07
10	Michigan	95.00
11	Florida	94.90
12	Delaware	94.80
13	Arizona	94.50
14	North Carolina	94.49
15	Louisiana	93.42

16	Wisconsin	93.37
17	Maine	93.237
18	Kansas	93.236
19	Hawaii	92.94
20	Rhode Island	92.72
21	Illinois	92.44
22	Mississippi	92.34
23	New Jersey	92.18
24	Arkansas	92.15
25	Pennsylvania	92.12
26	Vermont	92.09
27	Missouri	92.05
28	California	91.99
29	Iowa	91.98
30	Washington	91.72
31	Oregon	91.54
32	Colorado	91.41
33	Montana	91.40
34	New York	91.02
35	Connecticut	90.69

36	West Virginia	90.61
37	South Carolina	90.14
38	New Mexico	89.99
39	Idaho	89.81
40	Texas	89.42
41	New Hampshire	89.27
42	Massachusetts	89.02
43	Kentucky	88.12
44	Wyoming	87.47
45	Nevada	86.81
46	Alabama	86.55
47	Tennessee	86.28
48	Oklahoma	85.88
49	Pacific Area	85.69
50	Georgia	85.44
51	District of Columbia	84.12
52	Utah	80.18
53	Germany	66.68
LAST	Panama Canal	66.30

posts of 1,000 members or more

Recorded as of Jan. 10, 1985

Post Place	No.	Location	1984-85 Membership
1	1114	Evansville, Ind.	4,000
2	3579	Park Ridge, Ill.	2,509
3	628	Sioux Falls, S.D.	2,434
4	1308	Alton, Ill.	2,228
5	5555	Richfield, Minn.	1,214
6	1146	St. Clair Shores, Mich.	1,154
7	131	Lincoln, Neb.	2,055
8	1064	Huntington, W. Va.	2,022
9	2539	Gulfport, Miss.	1,984
10	360	Mishawaka, Ind.	1,973
11	47	Uniontown, Pa.	1,967
12	1296	Bloomington, Minn.	1,958
13	49	Mobile, Ala.	1,885
14	1273	Rapid City, S.D.	1,827
15	2290	Manville, N.J.	1,714
16	6506	Rosedale, Md.	1,694
17	6704	Mechanicsburg, Pa.	1,672
18	401	Albuquerque, N.M.	1,652
19	6640	Metairie, La.	1,651
20	249	Butler, Pa.	1,611
21	6975	Bristol, Va.	1,595
22	3382	Kingsport, Tenn.	1,591
23	7987	New Port Richey, Fla.	1,584
24	379	Yakima, Wash.	1,539
25	2503	Omaha, Neb.	1,516
26	4372	Odessa, Texas	1,512
27	367	Joliet, Ill.	1,510
28	1989	Indiana, Pa.	1,507
29	969	Tacoma, Wash.	1,503
30	1599	Chambersburg, Pa.	1,500
31	1275	Lima, Ohio	1,493
32	2100	Everett, Wash.	1,479
33	3851	Carmi, Ill.	1,460
34	641	Columbia, S.C.	1,452
35	2704	South Omaha, Neb.	1,439
36	7119	Indianapolis, Ind.	1,435
37	1003	Jefferson City, Mo.	1,418
38	5632	St. Louis Park, Minn.	1,410
39	1650	Topeka, Kans.	1,410

40	1736	Alexandria La.	1,409
41	573	Clarksburg, W. Va.	1,400
42	5263	Fort Sill, Okla.	1,392
43	549	Tucson, Ariz.	1,388
44	447	Albert Lea, Minn.	1,388
45	4087	Davison, Mich.	1,379
46	9619	Morningside, Md.	1,371
47	1621	Janesville, Wis.	1,370
48	1079	Elyria, Ohio	1,367
49	4057	Tupelo, Miss.	1,366
50	23	Lebanon, Miss.	1,347
51	972	Terre Haute, Ind.	1,328
52	1000	Independence, Mo.	1,327
53	283	Kingston, Pa.	1,325
54	3962	Corinth, Miss.	1,317
55	3160	Norfolk, Va.	1,311
56	53	Jamestown, N.Y.	1,307
57	1432	Salina, Kans.	1,305
58	2529	Sandusky, Ohio	1,305
59	8541	San Antonio, Texas	1,304
60	891	Asheville, N.C.	1,303
61	501	Denver, Colo.	1,301
62	9400	Sunnyslope, Ariz.	1,299
63	6796	Dallas, Texas	1,289
64	295	South St. Paul, Minn.	1,287
65	2199	Joliet, Ill.	1,287
66	6251	Cheektowaga, N.Y.	1,282
67	6896	Detroit, Minn.	1,281
68	1810	Brentwood, Pa.	1,267
69	733	Mason City, Iowa	1,260
70	1865	Kenosha, Wis.	1,259
71	6712	Revere, Maine	1,255
72	4903	Tucson, Ariz.	1,248
73	1857	Oklahoma City, Okla.	1,246
74	1590	Daytona Beach, Fla.	1,237
75	7330	Oakville, Conn.	1,233
76	1216	Austin, Minn.	1,231
77	832	South Portland, Maine	1,226
78	2012	Abilene, Texas	1,224
79	762	Fargo, N.D.	1,220
80	6874	Lemon Grove, Calif.	1,215
81	112	Wichita, Kans.	1,212
82	1120	Indianapolis, Ind.	1,206
83	2754	West View, Pa.	1,206

84	1639	Willmar, Minn.	1,201
85	1	Denver, Colo.	1,198
86	2346	Saugus, Maine	1,185
87	428	Saint Cloud, Minn.	1,179
88	5206	Hendersonville, N.C.	1,176
89	6240	Russell, Kans.	1,169
90	4051	Colorado Springs, Colo.	1,155
91	5225	West Memphis, Ariz.	1,154
92	2940	West Seneca, N.Y.	1,151
93	3777	Festus, Mo.	1,141
94	9223	Arlington, Calif.	1,131
95	1115	Hillsville, Va.	1,128
96	1863	Solon, Ohio	1,127
97	3376	Ephraia, Pa.	1,113
98	3790	Logansport, Ind.	1,108
99	7175	Millington, Tenn.	1,101
100	2702	Hillsville, Va.	1,099
101	305	Eau Claire, Wis.	1,099
102	2093	Orlando, Fla.	1,097
103	3074	Lexington, N.C.	1,097
104	1435	Spokane, Wash.	1,087
105	589	Hazelton, Pa.	1,087
106	137	Duluth, Minn.	1,086
107	3892	Harker Heights, Texas	1,077
108	1411	Cumberland, Md.	1,070
109	1201	Ponca City, Okla.	1,062
110	2640	Wallington, N.J.	1,061
111	2130	Lake Charles, La.	1,055
112	4848	Chattanooga, Tenn.	1,052
113	3838	Cape Girardeau, Mo.	1,051
114	950	Mankato, Minn.	1,032
115	1475	Amarillo, Texas	1,031
116	639	Malden, Maine	1,030
117	1536	Sayre, Pa.	1,027
118	1474	Spokane, Wash.	1,026
119	4256	Madeira Beach, Fla.	1,021
120	577	Tulsa, Okla.	1,018
121	1693	New Albany, Ind.	1,017
122	9191	Killeen, Texas	1,016
123	10209	Spring Hill, Fla.	1,012
124	1326	Bismarck, N.D.	1,009
125	8919	El Paso, Texas	1,008
126	673	Jasper, Ind.	1,007
127	191	Canonsburg, Pa.	1,005
128	3982	Santa Clara, Calif.	1,002

Growth: How One Post Did It

By Bill Bottoms

"We can't do it, we're just a small Post."

How many times has any Department Commander heard this? Ask one and he'll tell you, "More times than I care to remember."

Is "small" the lack of numbers, lack of facilities, lack of initiative, or lack of belief? Possibly it may be all of these. Also, possibly, it is a state of mind. Small is not a restriction or an end, but a beginning. At least that is how small Post 1973 in Sioux City, Iowa, views it.

On Aug. 8, 1976, then Department

Commander Walter Fankhauser obligated Post 1973's 50 charter members and instituted Sergeant Floyd Post. The Ladies Auxiliary was instituted the following January.

With literally a hole in the seat of their pants and their elbows hanging out, the Post and its Ladies Auxiliary dug in together.

Perhaps it is their philosophy—that any worthwhile project is worth doing together—that made the difference. Whatever the motivation, grow it did! In just 7½ years, the Post grew from the newest to the largest Post in its District.

Post 1973 was, of course, in the

same situation as all new Posts—it had no assets. With no benefactor waiting in the wings and the realization that it takes money to make money, Post members began by designing small projects to raise nickels and dimes. Soup suppers were held in community buildings. When the nickels and dimes were sufficient, bingo equipment was purchased. Games were taken to small surrounding communities and held in community buildings because the Post was unable to offer the large prizes necessary to compete with bingo games in its home city. The dimes and quarters raised at these small games

grew to a size which allowed the Post to rent a home of its own. This made it possible to expand fundraising projects to include pancake breakfasts, dinners and rummage sales. These 25- and 50-cent pieces finally made it possible to turn rent receipts into down payments on the building.

At the same time that members were diligently carrying on these small fundraising projects and increasing the Post's membership, they were participating in the VFW programs at the District, State and National level. They did not see helping the VFW grow as only a home town project.

Members, either singly or in teams, assisted in recruiting new members for 12 new Posts, both in their own District and in three other Districts. Its members have served the VFW in various positions as indicated by "Our Record." All positions listed have been held since Aug. 8, 1976. No positions listed were held by members before they joined Post 1973. The record as

published already is outdated because of elections and acknowledgements which occurred during District and Department elections in 1984.

These were added to Our Record in 1984:

A Department Senior Vice Commander, a District Commander, a District Junior Vice Commander, two District Trustees, a District Surgeon, a District Chaplain, an All State Post Commander Team Captain and an All State Quartermaster.

A home of one's own also made it possible to play host to District, State and National VFW functions. Members volunteered labor and materials to improve the Post home. The first dinner prepared in the Post's new home was for then Commander-in-Chief Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. In 1982, the Post hosted the State convention.

Acting upon a suggestion from one of its members (now Department Senior Vice Commander Ralph

Johnson) then Commander-in-Chief Arthur J. Fellwock ordered Post 1973 to assist VFW Magazine publisher John L. Smith in setting up the taping and editing of two 30-minute TV segments, "The VFW in Your Town" and "The VFW in Our Nation's Capital." Participants were Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Judge Advocate Gen. Larry W. Rivers and Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office Cooper T. Holt. Moderating the discussion was Adjutant Gen. Vander Clute. Tapes were subsequently distributed to all Departments.

Post 1973 is aware that it shares its history and struggle with small Posts across the nation. Although its membership now numbers over 400, ask its members if they belong to a "small" Post. The answer you will most likely get is, "Yep, we've got a long way to go, and it will take a lot of projects to get there."

The writer is a Past Department Commander of Iowa.

Post Aids Seniors

By E. E. White

Nine thousand meals and more than 10,000 donated dollars ago, Las Cruces, N.M., Post 10124 decided it needed a new and different community service project.

"We had sponsored different athletic teams, worked with city youngsters, but besides veterans and their families, we never found a truly satisfying project," Past Post Commander Ted Haley said.

"But in 1976 we stumbled onto this idea of serving a free, hot breakfast each month to Las Cruces' senior citizens. We have been going full steam ever since," he added.

Each month on the fourth Sunday, Post 10124 and its Auxiliary serve anywhere from 85 to 120 free meals at the Post home. The menu changes each month, but the volunteer cooks and serving crew remain fairly constant, notes Joan Crouch, who heads the breakfast committee for the Ladies

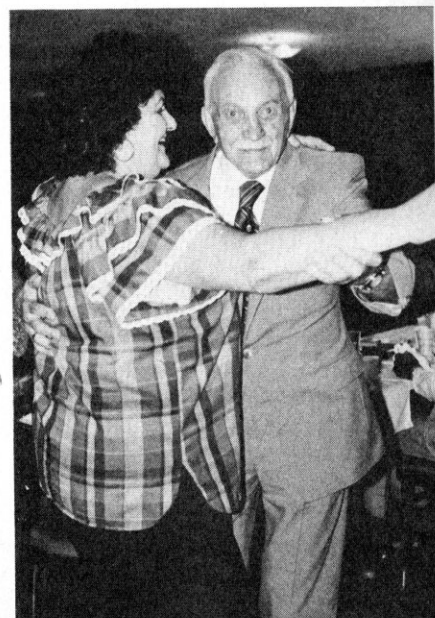
Auxiliary. She can count on her fingers the numbers of times she has missed working a breakfast during the past 7½ years.

In addition to serving a nourishing breakfast to the citizens, the Post and Auxiliary make sure all those observing a birthday during the month receive a birthday cake. All present join in singing the traditional birthday song. During the December breakfast, each senior receives a special handmade Christmas gift.

"Although I'm sure the citizens appreciate and enjoy the monthly breakfast, I believe they enjoy meeting friends and renewing acquaintances as much as they enjoy the meal," says Mrs. Crouch.

At a recent breakfast, following the birthday singing with VFW member Bill Roscoe at the piano, some guests began dancing with VFW Auxiliary members who had been serving the meals.

Roscoe said he could not remember



SWING YOUR PARTNER—George Berthel of Mesilla Park, a recent guest at the Senior Citizens Breakfast sponsored by Las Cruces VFW Post 10124, swings Norma LaFrance, Ladies Auxiliary president.

when his piano playing had been so appreciated. "I wish I had practiced a few hours before coming down here this morning," he said.

Roland (Frenchy) LaFrance, of Las Cruces, immediate Past Commander of Post 10124 and current head of the Post's Military Order of Cooties, noted

the breakfast volunteers must get an early start in order to meet the 9 a.m. serving deadline. "We start the gas stove around 6:30 a.m. and begin preparing the food a little after 7 a.m.," he said. "But after we finish serving the meals, around 10 a.m., then the hard work begins."

LaFrance says paper plates and plastic utensils are used to cut down the KP, but cleaning pots and pans, stoves, serving area and dining room takes until 11:30 a.m. ■

Comrade White is historian of Post 10124.

Post 10600 Aids Miss Liberty

By Dr. Coralee Michelucci

Freedom to grow at your own pace and in your own direction has pulled people together in one common goal, the rebuilding and maintenance of the symbol of American liberty, Miss Liberty herself.

Nestled at the edge of the Appalachian Mountains in an almost forgotten part of New Jersey is the semi-farming, semi-commuters' paradise of Blairstown.

This town's 5,000 diversified citizens, some oldtimers, many new, pooled their resources for one big campaign to save Miss Liberty that culminated in the collection of nearly \$6,000.

It all began when Anthony Fowler, the incoming Commander of Post 10600 in Blairstown, said, "Let's take on a community project to get the group going," and then added, "Let's get the whole community in on it." Isabel Dodd suggested Miss Liberty as something everyone could relate to.

Fowler wrote a letter from the Post to every organization in the township and invited each to participate. A coordinating committee was set up with Deputy Mayor George C. Wilhelm and Bob Sandberg, a VFW member, as co-chairmen. They decided to hold a Liberty Ball, open to everyone.

Schoolchildren entered a Miss Liberty poster contest to advertise it. Sandberg organized the contest and ended with 148 posters that hung in every business place throughout the village. Firemen offered their building and service; another veterans' group took over placing the posters and awarded U.S. Savings Bonds donated by various organizations to the win-

ners; the VFW held several raffles; the Blairstown Business Association printed and distributed tickets; the Democratic and Republican Clubs worked together on the buffet; the Woman's Club made desserts; the Ambulance Corps and Boy Scouts did the decorating; everybody helped clean up.

Meanwhile, other groups were raising money, too. The Welcome Wagon had a bake sale; the Senior Citizens contributed money from a bake sale and craft show; the Interact Club washed cars and Blair Academy students took up a collection in their bookstore.

It was a unique experience to see all the groups that make up the vast melting pot of America pull together for one common goal. Fowler claims it is this very melting pot philosophy that made this country so great. "It is the kind of freedom that allows you to go as far as you want," Eloise Lehnert, the Blairstown Press photographer and reporter, feels very strongly about what we are. "We are not a salad bowl," she says, "not a European outpost, but a new and separate nation." Quartermaster Bob Dodd, of Post 10600, calls it "a good hearty stew with nuggets of ethnicity that flavor the pot."

Frank Kelly, a township committeeman, explains his involvement as "a pride in community, in America, in all the U.S.A., just the same as not wanting our own community to go to pieces; we don't want the symbol of our country falling apart either." Sue Lothian, of the Ambulance Corps, who made all the table decorations herself, says she thinks the statue is especially important for people

coming in from wars. Others piped up with enthusiasm as they remembered their own returns from Iran or Europe or elsewhere and the elation they felt coming into the New York harbor and seeing Miss Liberty there, tall and proud, like their nation.

Thersia Wiesing, who came to this country from Germany 30 years ago, left wartorn Europe for new hope. She arrived on the SS America; her honeymoon was spent aboard ship. "I was so excited," she explains, "when the captain announced over the loudspeaker that we should go outside to see the Statue of Liberty. I said, 'America here we come. The land of opportunities and freedom. God Bless America.'" Then she added her continued good feelings, "I love it and love the people. The statue reminds me of all those feelings."

Jerry Labar, president of the Ambulance Corps, calls this whole effort "a very important deal. Mother Nature has deteriorated it. Our parents and grandparents pooled their pennies as school children to build nickels, dimes and quarters. This gives the whole community an opportunity to keep up the heritage."

As the dance came to a close and the neighbors and friends, usually too busy with jobs, homes and children to spend time together, enjoyed the common meeting ground, the announcement was made:

"We have \$5,940 to contribute to Miss Liberty."

Applause resounded. Perhaps it was only a drop in the bucket, but, like Lady Liberty herself, it was a symbol of how much one small community thinks of her and what she stands for. ■

Smith, "and granted us title to the aircraft for a minimal sum and helped move the aircraft and some tanks and guns that were also found in the South Pacific. Eventually all the items were transported on an Australian aircraft carrier to Long Beach, Calif., where the LTV Corp. came to the rescue and transported the artifacts to Fredericksburg.

"The story is much longer and involves hiring local natives to hunt through the bush, looking for tanks and guns, hustling to beat another collector in the area trying to lay claim to the airplane, and tracing another tail section down on a remote island to replace the damaged tail section on the main Val. The second Val had been destroyed in a crash, but the tail of the aircraft had remained in a tree until recovered in 1971. Human remains found in the rest of the aircraft were returned to Japan."

Among the other exhibits is the "Fat Man" Nagasaki-type bomb case identical to the Mark-3 atomic bomb dropped by the B-29 "Bock's Car" on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. Five days later President Truman announced the unconditional surrender of Japan.

A highlight of the History Walk is a light-and-sound presentation... an actual Combat Information Center from the main deck of the USS Frankford. It was dismantled from the mothballed destroyer and reconstructed at the museum. Adm. Arleigh Burke on videotape traces the story of the Battle of Cape St. George where he commanded U. S. ships.

"The other major source of artifacts for the museum's research collections, archives and library is veterans of the Pacific War and their relatives," Smith said.

"Fatigue uniforms worn by soldiers, sailors and marines during the war are hardest to find. To tell the day-to-day life of winning the Pacific War, the museum must have those items worn every day in the trenches," he added.

"Other items really helping tell the story are photographs, especially snapshots taken by the participants themselves," he said.

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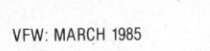
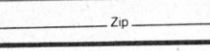
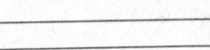
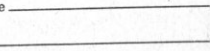
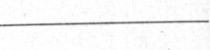
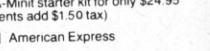
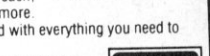
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1st Div., 26th Inf., Co. I (Bamberg, Germany, 1948-49) & 9698th AF Reserve Sqdn. (Jan. 24, 1957, Rolla, Mo.)—Seeking anyone who knew me while hospitalized with yellow jaundice in Bamberg; anyone who knew about special meeting in Rolla concerning issue of uniforms.—Duane Combs, 1950 Whalebone Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901.

WW I—Seeking anyone who can verify my service record; inducted Jan. 1918 in Stevens Point, Wis.; basic training in Niagara, Canada, for Polish speaking recruits; served with French 3d Reg., Co. 10, Sect. 1, 3d Pltn. as machine gunner; served with Polish army until 1920.—Zigmunt Zelnio, 800 W Stockwell, Lincoln, NE 68522.

ARMY

120th AACs SQ (Port Heiden, Aleutian Islands, Dec. 1945)—Seeking anyone who remembers the injury to my left knee, esp. S/Sgt. Jack Rheinhold and Cpl. Goza.—Sheldon E. Schultz, RR 3 Box 506, Kimberling City, MO 65686.

2d Inf. Div., 23d Inf. Rgt., 3d Bn., Co. F (Korea, Oct.-Nov. 1951)—Seeking anyone who remembers me falling over cliff with machine gun while on patrol.—John Dimoplou, 16 Pearsall Dr., Monroe, NY 10950.

815th AAA AW Bn., Btry. D (WW II)—Seeking battery roster with home addresses.—Roy K. Hanley, 9860 Grandview Rd., Traverse City, MI 49684.

Camp Grant (Ill.) 1943 Football Team; 580th AMB Co. (Ft. Ord., Salinas & ETO) & 58th QM Co. (France & Germany, 1945)—Seeking anyone with knowledge of my physical ailments.—Herbert C. Spivey, 109 Indian Oak Ave., Crewe, VA 23930.

Shick Gen. Hosp. (Clinton, Iowa, Feb.-Aug. 1943)—Seeking Dewey C. Boyd, Emmet Anderson, James Purdie, Donald H. Jennings, William A. Kurtz, George Richards, James McVay.—Lawrence Hanway, SRS Box 1532, Alamogordo, NM 88310.

NAVY

USS Hyman (DD732) (Med. cruise, Sept. 1948-Jan. 1949)—Seeking pharmacist mates Hawkins, Tilly, Tilton, others who remember me being treated for severe ear problems.—G. Cassidy, 4478 S Morey Rd., Lake City, MI 49651.

CBMU 543 (New Guinea, 1942-43)—Seeking Allan J. Fox (Ohio)—Hector Molet, POB 705, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

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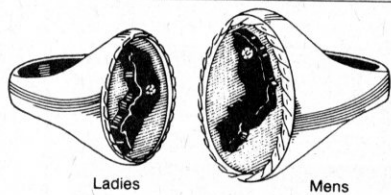
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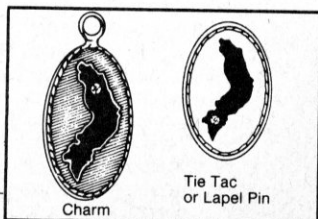
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84-206

REUNIONS

AIR FORCE

(Including Army air units prior to 1947)

March

4th Mil. Airlift Sqdn. (MAC)—29-31, McChord AFB, Wash.—Bob Sweeney, 4th MAS, McChord AFB, WA 98438.

1071st Sig. Co., 9th AF (WW II)—29-31, Chicago—Claud Crowell, 2466 Harriet Lane, Anaheim, CA 92804.

May

7th Photo Grp., 8th AF (WW II)—23-30, Mount Farm, England—Claude Murray, 1933 E Marshall, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

13th Airdrome Sqdn.—2-5, Orlando, Fla.—Harry Goodman, 140 Lake Meryl Dr., Apt. 238, West Palm Beach, FL 33411.

44th BG/BW/SMW—22-26, Rapid City, S.D.—Lloyd Leachman, 1700 E 4th St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

80th & 26th Air Depot Grps. (CBI Karachi)—16-18, Montgomery, Ala.—Alfr4ed Baker, 1822 Lawson Lane, Amarillo, TX 79106.

86th Ftr.-Bomb. Grp. Assn.—30-June 2, Chattanooga—Gilbert Hurt, 4920 Montcrest Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37416.

90th Bomb. Grp. (H)—1-5, Anaheim, Calif.—Bill Stewart, 853 S Winthrop St., Orange, CA 92669.

Pilot Class 43-E, Gulf Coast Trng. Command—17-19, Denver—K.C. Growe, 508 S Ogden Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90036.

June

1st Radio Sqdn., ASC—22, Dayton—J.D. Woosley, 100 McKinley Dr., Camden, OH 45311.

2d Bomb. Sqdn., 22d Grp., 5th AF—20-23, Williamsburg, Va.—Jim Bradley, 5803 NW 70th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33319.

20th Ftr. Grp. Assn.—14, Air Force Academy—John Hudgens, 409 University Ave., Apt. 108 S, Lubbock, TX 79401.

79th Airdrome Sqdn. (WW II)—7-9, Memphis—Richard Wood, 1308 5th St., Earle, AR 72331.

109th Tac. Recon. Sqdn. (ETO, WW II)—6-8, Minneapolis—Ed Bossard, 1738 W Skillman Ave., St. Paul, MN 55113.

347th Ftr. Sqdn.—20-23, Indianapolis—William Bagley, 6230 Forest View Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46208.

381st Air Svc. Sqdn., 7th Photo Recon Grp.—25-27, Flemington, N.J.—Jay Williams, 762 Van Nest Dr., Martinville, NJ 08836.

390th Bomb. Sqdn., 42d Bomb. Grp., 13th AF (WW II)—21-23, San Antonio—Curtis Lee, 2613, Regal Rd., Plano, TX 75075.

1090th Sig. Co., 5th AF—6-9, Ft. Gordon, Ga.—David Kenyon, 2 Harding Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37412.

ALL BRANCHES

May

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Honor Guard Co. (1945-51)—17-18, Norfolk, Va.—Robert Marko, POB 185, Ambia, IN 47917.

MOB 1 Hospital (1940-43)—Norfolk, Va.—G.T. Parkinson, 8271 Briarwood Circle, Norfolk, VA 23518.

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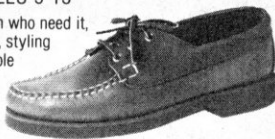
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REUNIONS

June

America's Division Veterans Assn. (WW II, Korea & Vietnam)—6-9, Hyannis, Mass.—Joseph Marotta, Schooner Pass, 6 Ships View Terr., Bourne, MA 02532.

U.S. Disciplinary Barracks Retirees—22, Leavenworth, Kans.—M.E. Merritt, 104 E Mary, Lansing, KS 66043.

ARMY

April

65th Gen. Hosp. (WW II)—27, Raleigh, N.C.—Sarkis Mhranian, 19 Gregory Lane, Loudonville, NY 12211.

78th Inf. Div., 309th Inf. Rgt., Co. E—25-27, Wichita Falls, Texas—John Hrnirik, POB 97, Megarel, TX 76370.

139th OBAM, 3037th Co.—12-14, Atlanta—Marvin Hoke, POB 194, Mableton, GA 30059.

243d Sig. Oper. Co. (WW II)—22-25, Alexandria, La.—Cliff Hagedorn, 1515 5th Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60018.

772d TD Bn. Assn.—European tour—Fred Van Antwerp, POB 115, Sunfield, MI 48890.

May

2d Div., 23d Inf., Co. D—17-19, Kirvin, Texas—Billie Hughes, POB 266, Kirvin, TX 75848.

4th Armd. Div. Assn., N.Y. Chap.—4-5, West Point, N.Y.—Ed Rapp, 87-02 188th St., Jamaica, NY 11423.

9th Armd. Div., 52d Armd. Inf. Bn. (WW II)—21-23, Hampton, Va.—Thomas Cardulla, 117 Orchard Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630.

12th Inf. (NYG)—17, New York City—John Haag, 89-30 121st St., Richmond Hill, NY 11418.

20th Armd. Div., 20th Tank Bn., Co. A—31-June 2, Moscow, Idaho—Arthur Tietz, Star Rt., Harvard, ID 83834.

31st Inf. Rgt.—Ft. Sill, Okla.—John Lyons, 10641 Ballast Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92643.

86th Chem. Mortar Bn.—2-5, Nashville—Dean Gilbert, RR 12 Box 52, Crossville, TN 38555.

88th Div., Southeast Chap.—11-13, cruise—Al Greene, 507 S Lakemont Ave., Winter Park, FL 32792.

93d AA, Btry. B—9-12, Kissimi, Fla.—Roy Gilbert, 4768 N 39th St., Milwaukee, WI 53209.

103d Div., 384th FA Bn., HQ Btry.—3-5, Dubuque, Iowa—Tony Balsamo, 3445 Glencove Ln, Dubuque, IA 52001.

150th Engr. (C) Bn. Assn. (WW II)—17-19, Manchester, N.H.—Philip Dobruck, 2 Dayton Ct., Newington, CT 06111.

173d Abn. Bde. (Sep.) (Okinawa, Vietnam)—1-5, Washington, D.C.—Kenneth Smith, 6400 Whippany Way, Burke, VA 22015.

199th Lt. Inf. Bde.—7, New York City—Red-catcher, POB 21, Chantilly, VA 22021.

212th CA AAA (NGNY)—17, New York City—Nicholas Van Eck, 337 Sound Beach Ave., Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

245th Engr. (C) Bn.—24-26, Chattanooga—Charlie Spinner, 300 Sheffield Ct., Joppa, MD 21085.

355th AAA Searchlight Bn.—17, New York City—William Brady, 100 O'Neil St., Kingston, NY 12401.

430th AAA AW Bn. (WW II)—24-27, Warren, Mich.—Carl Prieh, 22384 Hayes, East Detroit, MI 48021.

462d AW Bn. (WW II)—17, New York City—Robert Bennett, 530 E 20th St., New York, NY 10009.

REUNIONS

497th AAA, Btry. A—3-5, Beaver Bend State Park, Okla.—William Barron, POB 1347, Hooks, TX 75561.

535th AAA AW Bn. (WW II)—Reno—H.N. Boykin, 2085 Maple, Batesville, AR 72501.

542d Para. Inf. Rgt. & Bn., & 467th Para. FA Bn.—16-19, Phoenix—John Grady, POB 542, Malabar, FL 32950-0542.

700th Ord. (LM) Co. (WW II)—10-12, San Antonio—John Braubach, 8543 Barron St., San Antonio, TX 78240.

773d AAA Gun. Bn. (Korea)—17, New York City—Edward Murray, 4930 166th St., Flushing, NY 11365.

June

6th US Cav. Veterans Assn.—14-16, Chattanooga—Charles Hill, POB 2011, Ft. Ogelthorpe, GA 30742.

9th Inf. Div. (WW II)—6-8, Orlando—Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087.

29th Div., 115th Inf., Co. B—2, Hagerstown, Md.—George Penner, 214 Wood Pine Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740.

38th Div., 152d Inf., Svc. Co.—9, New Haven, Ind.—Donald Parker, 1617 N Highland Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN 46808.

44th Inf. Div., 71st Inf. Rgt., Co. G—10-14, Tulsa—L.M. Gasperino, 4616 S Winston, Tulsa, OK 74135.

51st Med. Bn. Assn. (WW II)—8-9, Greengburg, Pa.—Wayne Lebo, 7 Penrose St., Harrisburg, PA 17109.

56th Gen. Hosp. (WW II)—7-9, St. Paul—Les Trowbridge, 4725 12th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

66th Div. PVO—27-30, Denver, Colo.—Arthur Gillespie, 167 Jefferson Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065.

90th Inf. Div., 790th Ord. (LM) Co.—14-16, Chicago, Ill.—George Dodge, 1425 Glenview Rd., Glenview, IL 60025.

92d Machine Records Unit (Ft. Knox, 1941-43)—Lowell Holmes, 3500 S Tomahawk Rd. 223, Apache Junction, AZ 85220.

93d Armd. FA Bn.—25-29, Southgate, Mich.—Robert Mills, 13856 Brigard St., Detroit, MI 48205.

99th Chem. Mortar Bn. & 442d AA AW Bn. (WW II)—23-28, St. Louis—Joseph Byers, 4259 Ringford Pl., St. Louis, MO 63129.

103d Inf. Div., 382d FA Bn., Btry. C—27-29, Eau Claire, Wis.—Marcellus Jacobson, 3234 Anderson Dr., Eau Claire, WI 54703.

105th AAA AW Bn. Assn.—26-28, Lafayette, La.—Margaret Baker, Rt. 1 Box 276A, Strasburg, OH 44680.

164th Inf., Co. I—29-30, Wahpeton, N.D.—Ira Keeney, 521 N 2d St., Wahpeton, ND 58075.

180th Station Hosp. (WW II)—21-23, Newark, Del.—Paul Steele, 336 S College Ave., Newark, DE 19711.

222d Searchlight Bn. (WW II)—20-22, New Orleans—Frank Gassenberger, 832 Keller Ave., Westwego, LA 70094.

281st Refrig. Co. (Mbl.) (WW II)—14-16, Colorado Springs, Colo.—Dean Murphy, POB 192, Yuma, CO 80759.

314th Inf., 3d Bn., HQ Co.—10-12, Jamestown, Ky.—S.M. Dowdle, Rt. 2 Box 202, Caledonia, MS 39740.

360th Gen. Svc. Engr. Rgt. (WW II)—21-22, Irwin, Pa.—Edward Ziats, POB 257, Marianna, PA 15345.

365th FA Bn.—14-16, Kansas City, Mo.—Bob Gillum, 438 Euclid, Slater, MO 65349.

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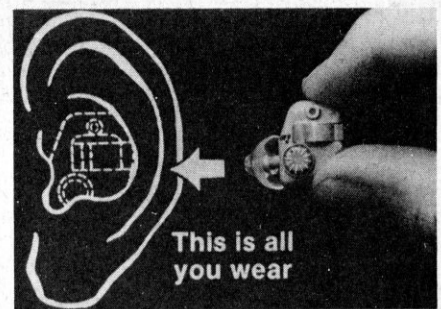
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REUNIONS

373d Engr., Co. E—28-30, Wilkinson, Ind.—Forrest Camplin, POB 27, Wilkinson, IN 46186.

417th Night Ftr. Sqdn. (WW II)—7-8, Chicago, Ill.—David Miller, 3-133 Apparel Ctr., Chicago, IL 60654.

471st Engr. Maint. Co.—7-9, South Fallsburg, N.Y.—Anthony DiCroce, 301 Seneca Pkwy., Rochester, NY 14613.

483d AAA AW Bn.—29-30, Chapel Hill, Tenn.—William Haygood, Rt. 11 Box 474, Florence, AL 35630.

511th Engr. LP Co. (WW II)—14-16, Lancaster, Pa.—Nick Rosania, POB 412, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889.

563d AAA—7-9, Fredericksburg, Va.—Rudy Gorlitz, 26 Cheshire Rd., Bethpage, NY 11714.

580th AAA, Btry. D—14-16, Rochester, N.Y.—David Engdahl, 65 Sharon Dr., Rochester, NY 14626.

728th ROB (WW II)—13-15, Louisville, Ky.—Fred Stucky, 307 S Webster Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219.

746th ROB, Co. C—25-27, Columbus, Ohio—Stuart Gardner, 3670 N State Rte. 269, Bellvue, OH 44811.

984th MP Co. (Avn.)—21-23, Salt Lake City—Lee Frodsham, 1200 Bruce #78, Dumas, TX 79029.

1991st QM Trk. Co.—14-16, Cheyenne, Wyo.—Harold Sigler, 123 S 3d St., LeSueur, MN 56058.

3071st QM Reifr. Co. (Mbl.)—28-30, Kansas City, Mo.—Frank Thurman, 530 Jasmine St., Chula Vista, CA 92011.

3409th Ord. MAM Co. (68th QM)—22-23, Danville, Ky.—Harold Timmons, 109 Yorktown Rd., Clarksville, TN 37042.

3600 QM Trk. Co.—28-30, Iowa City, Iowa—Donald Abbott, RR 2, Columbus Junction, IA 52738.

COAST GUARD

☐ June

USS Wakefield (AP21)—Carmine Ciampa, 21 Briggs St., Melrose, MA 02176.

☐ July

USS PC556—10-14, Niagara Falls—Henry Mast, 5291-A Chestnut Ridge Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127.

MARINES

☐ April

1st Marine Div., 1-3-7 (WW II)—11-14, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.—Gilbert Croll, 218 Egret Ave., Naples, FL 33963.

☐ May

6th Marine Def. Bn. (Midway, 1941-44)—29-June 2, Boulder, Colo.—Carl Cain, 897 S Cole Dr., Lakewood, CO 80228.

23d Marines, Co. B—17-19, Valley Forge, Pa.—Pete Kershner, 1605 Fairview Ave., Berwick, PA 18603.

Marine Aircraft Grp. 62 (WW II)—10-11, Cincinnati—LeRoy Seaborn, 3257 York Rd., Cortland, OH 44410.

☐ June

Japanese Language School (Camp Elliott, Calif., 1943-44)—Memphis—William Howe, POB 364, Crawfordsville, AR 72327.

REUNIONS

Wake Island Defenders—13-15, Oklahoma City—Jack Skaggs, 2300 E South Bend Rd., Edmond, OK 73034.

□July

5th Marines, 2d Bn., Co. G (1968-69)—Chicago—Bob Gross, 1722 Lehigh Station Rd., Henrietta, NY 14467.

6th Marine Div., Brig Det. (Tsingtao, China)—26-28, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.—L.W. Marshall, Star Rt. Box 82, Guild, TN 37340.

NAVY

□April

SB2C—28, Arlington, Va.—Alton Chinn, 2558 Blaze Trail, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

USS Belleau Wood (CVL24) & attached air groups—25-28, Jacksonville, Fla.—Richard Fread, POB 846, Annandale, VA

USS Bryant (DD665)—25-28—Everette Owens, 1241 Cape Charles Ave., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233.

USS Loy (APD56/DE160)—19-21, Naples, Fla.—Harold Krantz, 3112 Gordon St., Naples, FL 33962.

□May

1st Beach Bn. (WW II)—1-4, Port Arthur, Texas—Edwin Roberts, 219 Hardy Ave., Nederland, TX 77627.

30th NCB (WW II)—24-27, Cherry Hill, N.J.—Frank Sims, Jr., 10 Dartmouth Ave., Somerdale, NJ 08083.

USS Ancon (AGC4)—18-19, Pittsburgh—Oliver Marks, 33 Bryson Mill Rd., New Castle, PA 16102.

USS LCI (L) 445—31-June 2, West Point, N.Y.—Frank Cerra, RD 1 C-68 Huemer Lane, Chester, NJ 07930.

USS Luce (DD522)—4, Mayport, Fla.—James Phillips, 2521 SE 60th St., Ocala, FL 32671.

USS Yorktown (CV5) Club—23-26, Denver—Bob Johnson, 5791 S Spotswood St., Littleton, CO 80120.

VB/VPB 106—15-19, Norfolk, Va.—Gordon Ebbe, 2211 Wynkoop Dr., Colorado, CO 80909.

□June

CVL Sisters—19-23, Cowpens, S.C.—Gerald Shaw, POB 560505, Miami, FL 33156.

FPO New York 107—1-3, Wildwood Crest, N.J.—Russ Barbour, 123 Rose Briar Rd., Longwood, FL 32750.

GROPAC 8 (Saipan, 1944-46)—13-15, Gamaliel, Ark.—William Walker, 3371 Victory Dr. B-2, Columbus, GA 31903.

Naval Weather Service Assn.—26-29, Las Vegas—Herb Goodland, 786 Christy Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89110.

USS Alaska (CB1)—13-16, Buffalo—Charles St. George, 25 Leon Pl., Fredonia, NY 14063.

USS Amycus (ARL2)—25-28, Reno—Richard Hoag, POB 455, Lincoln City, OR 97367.

USS Bridge—14-16, Sheridan, Ore.—Robert Malo, RR 1 Box 24, Sheridan, OR 97378.

USS Cowpens (CVL25)—19-22, Cowpens, S.C.—Ray Baxter, 906 Palmer St., Chester, PA 19013.

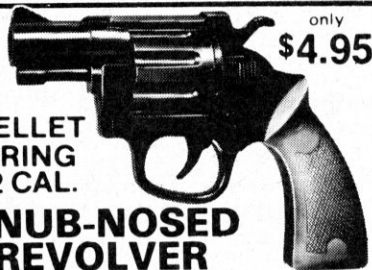
USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS9)—12-15, Williamsburg, Va.—Jack Gallagher, POB 3156, Lake-wood, CA 90711-3156.

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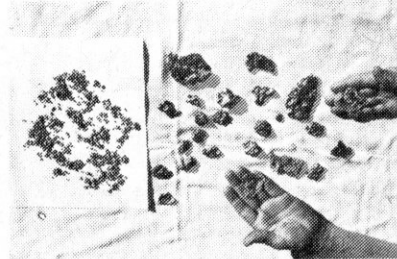
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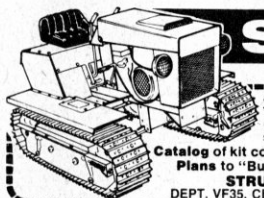
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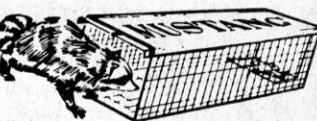
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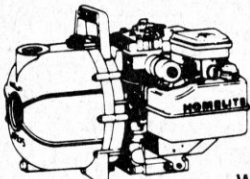
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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

1984-85 Series

General Orders No. 6

1. The following appointments are hereby announced: NATIONAL BAND AND DRUM CORPS COMMITTEE: Member: Raymond C. O'Brien, Post 529, Somerville, Mass. NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Members: Father Austin J. Henry, Post 1318, Madison, Wis.; Leon G. Scull, Post 3525, Hamilton Township, N.J., and Fred Von Rembow, Jr., Post 8493, Omro, Wis. NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE: Members: A.E. Cherry, Post 8535, Henderson, Texas, and Charles Urda, Post 9223, Arlington, Calif. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Member: Sam J. Angotti, Post 548, Morgantown, W.Va. NATIONAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Member: Dick Staggs, Post 2238, Shreveport, La. NATIONAL SAFETY COMMITTEE: Members: Henry L. Black, Post 5266, Morristown, Tenn.; Herman Constable, Jr., Post 4458, Caldwell, Texas, and Robert P. Witcher, Post 7980, Millstadt, Ill. NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE: Members: James Dobbs, Post 67, Sacramento, Calif.; Chester Koch, Post 1415, Cleveland, Ohio; Roland Petering, Post 7900, Kansas City, Mo.; Rev. Albert G. Salmon, Post 6912, Lowville, N.Y., and Robert Whitbread, Post 605, Paris, France. NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE: Member: Eugene V. Handwerk, Post 8699, Boston, Mass. NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE: Members: Eugene R. Wiseman, Post 632, Harrisonburg, Va., and Rocco Gioso, Post 6616, Denver, Colo. NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF: Norman N. Cooper, Post 1433, Glendale, Ariz.; Wilbur H. Freeman, Post 6687, Wilmington, Del.; Frank Kvidahl, Post 493, Nutley, N.J.; Raymond P. Effinger, Post 1616, Williamstown, N.J.; James V. Falbo, Post 4591, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.; Raymond Fisher, Post 6059, W. Portal, N.J.; Howard Dalrymple, Post 2833, Kenil, N.J.; Tony Galletti, Post 1931, Wayne, N.J.; and Leo L. White, Post 4935, Memphis, Tenn. ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL: William A. Frye, Post 1826, Buckeye, Ariz.; George A. Seidle, Post 3420, Newark, Del.; Donald Gritman, Post 3198, Showhegan, Maine; John Carolan, Post 2347, Netcong, N.J.; and Curtis Jackson, Post 1297, Camden, N.J. NATIONAL AIDES-DE-CAMP MEDAL OF HONOR CLASS: James R. Hendrix, Post 8120, Poinciana, Fla.; Allen J. Lynch, Post 4308, Lake Villa, Ill.; John Meagher, Post 1447, Jersey City, N.J., and John D. Hawk, Post 3694, Bremerton, Wash.

2. Post Commanders are reminded that every Post must register one, or more, delegates to the VFW National Convention. Advance

registration for the 86th National Convention that will be held in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 16-23, 1985, is six dollars (\$6.00). Delegate's name and address, together with advance registration fee, should be mailed to Veterans of Foreign Wars 86th National Convention, The Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75207.

3. March 31 marks the close of the Community Activities recordbook contest year. Recordbooks should be mailed to Department Headquarters, or as directed by the Department Community Activities Chairman, for state contest judging.

4. Posts are urged to start planning now for Loyalty Day observances in their community. Requests for Loyalty Day material should be forwarded to National Headquarters, attention of the Americanism Department.

5. Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their 1985 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy sale. Promotional material has been mailed to all Commanders. Every Post is urged to order and sell VFW Buddy Poppies.

6. Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Constitution and By-Laws concerning arrearages of Posts for membership reports, National, Department, County Council or District dues, National Convention registration, poppy money, supply money or other financial obligations, or failure to have the office of Quartermaster bonded, or failure to submit quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit. Posts that are delinquent in any of the aforementioned shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings, District, Department and National Conventions.

7. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed by the Trustees, in detail, at the close of each quarter, one of which ends March 31st. Commanders are reminded that all funds are to be under the custody and control of the Post Quartermaster. Persons other than the Post Quartermaster who may handle Post funds, such as Club Manager, Bingo Chairman or committee chairmen are responsible to the Post Quartermaster to maintain accurate records and accounts, and should be properly bonded. Post Trustees are to ensure that the financial records of these special funds are also audited in the same manner as the other accounts of the Post

Quartermaster.

8. Officer Proof of Eligibility Requirements: All Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 (c), 316, 414 (c) and 515 (c) of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility is in the files of their respective Adjutant.

9. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 4355 and 9415 consolidated as Post 4355, Salt Lake City, Utah; Posts 4930 and 9391 consolidated as Post 9391, Apache, Okla.; Posts 5351 and 9574 consolidated as Post 5351, Hanover Township, N.J.; and Posts 9275 and 9278 consolidated as Post 9275, Roosevelt, Utah.

10. The location of the following Post has been changed: Post 9787 from Norway to South Paris, Maine.

11. Attention is called to S.O. No. 126 cancelling charter of Post 6672, Thomson, Ga.

12. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post 888, Perris, Calif.; Post 2705, Moweaqua, Ill.; Post 2838, Darien, Ill.; Post 2880, Mackinaw, Ill.; Post 3624, Manteno, Ill.; Post 5178, Beachwood, Ohio; Post 5299, MacArthur, Ohio; Post 5382, Sciota, Pa.; Post 5588, Kunkletown, Pa.; Post 5739, Old Hickory, Tenn.; Post 5972, Bridgeton, Mo.; Post 6008, Hewitt, Texas; Post 6053, Hingham, Mass.; Post 6676, Brookpark, Ohio; Post 7381, Haynesville, La.; Post 7436, Shreveport, La.; Post 7756, Middleport, Ohio; Post 8105, West Monroe, La.; Post 8119, North Naples, Fla.; Post 8340, Montello, Wis.; Post 8683, Cudjoe Key, Fla.; Post 8808, Vestal, N.Y.; Post 9357, Holbrook, Neb.; Post 9412, Germantown, Md.; Post 9422, St. Charles, Md.; Post 9505, Princess Anne, Md.; Post 9705, Jellico, Tenn.; and Post 9994, Delhi, La.

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Apples

A Redding mother, pushing her son in a shopping cart down the aisle of a market recently, hastily removed from the cart a package of apples he had grabbed off the shelf. Telling him they were too expensive, she added: "The way you go through apples, you'd think they grew on trees."

—Quote

Business

The minister was telling some businessmen what it must be like in heaven.

"It'll be nice and peaceful up there," he was saying, "because there's no buying or selling in heaven."

Of course not," said one of the executives. "That's not where business has gone!"

—Quote

Contributions

When the minister came to call, a mother gave her son a quarter which he held in the palm of his hand. When the minister observed this, he asked the boy whether he'd like to contribute it to mission work.

The boy replied, "I'd much rather spend it on a soda at the corner drugstore and let *them* give it to a good cause."

—Quote

Faithful

Football player: "My girlfriend was faithful to the end."

"I was the quarterback."

—Paul Harvey

Tact

At a big New Year's Eve party, an attractive matron asked a young man to guess her age. "You must have some idea," she said as he hesitated.

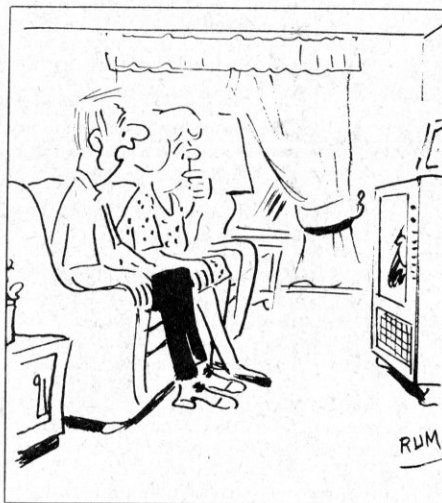
"I have several ideas," he admitted with a smile. "The only trouble is that I can't decide whether to make you 10 years younger on account of your looks, or 10 years older on account of your charm."

—Quote

Higher Education

No wonder higher education is in trouble. UCLA Weekly, a publication that lists college events, has changed its name to UCLA Daily — but now it comes out every other week.

—Quote



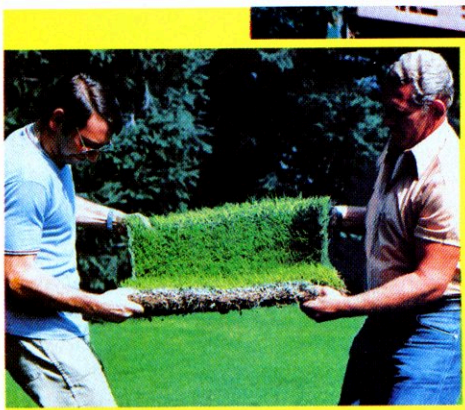
"If it wasn't for the news—we wouldn't know what to worry about!"

No longer is a fly-by-night a shady character. Now he's an economy-class airline passenger.



"Sorry but I have strict orders not to admit anyone without a tie..."





So deep-rooted is Amazoy... it grows into practically indestructible turf.

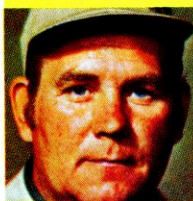
GRASS SEED WILL NEVER GROW A LAWN LIKE THIS — DROUGHT AND WEAR RESISTANT! Amazoy lawns stay green right thru scorching heat and drought!

**NEW
LOW
PRICE**

Two Grown Men Can't Pull It Apart! Zoysia Saves Time, Work & Money

Amazoy is the Trade Mark Registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass

By Jack T. Johnson, Agronomist



Every year I see people pour more and more money into their lawns. They dig, fertilize and lime. They rake it all in. They scatter their seed and roll and water it.

Birds love it! Seeds which aren't washed away by rain give them a

feast. But some seed grows, and soon it's time to weed, water and mow...until summer comes to burn the lawn into hay, or crabgrass and diseases infest it.

That's what happens to ordinary grass, but not to Amazoy Zoysia Grass.

"MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn "...is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in... Last summer we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds — it's just wonderful!"

And from Iowa came word that the state's largest Men's Garden Club picked a Zoysia lawn as the "top lawn — nearly perfect" in its area. Yet this lawn had been watered only once all summer up to August!

CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS

Thick, rich, luxurious, established Amazoy grows into a carpet of grass that chokes out crabgrass and weeds all summer long. It will NOT winter kill. Goes off its green color after killing frosts. Begins regaining its green color at the time when the temperature in the spring is consistently warm. This, of course, varies with climate.

FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, BARE SPOTS

If slopes are a problem, Amazoy is your answer. Just plug it in, let it establish grass that ends erosion, or plug it into hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, etc.

FREE! UP TO 1000 PLUGS JUST FOR ORDERING NOW

**NO NEED TO RIP OUT PRESENT GRASS
PLUG AMAZOY INTO OLD LAWN,
NEW GROUND OR NURSERY AREA**

Just set Amazoy plugs into holes in ground like a cork in a bottle. Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style.

When planted in existing lawn areas plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, including weeds. Easy planting instructions with order.

YOUR OWN SUPPLY OF PLUG TRANSPLANTS

Established Amazoy gives you Zoysia plugs to plant in other areas as desired!



FREE PATENTED STEP- ON PLUGGER WITH ORDERS OF 1000 PLUGS OR MORE.

Amazoy exclusive! No one else can offer you this patented 2-way plugger. Saves bending, time, work. Light, rugged, invaluable for transplanting. Cuts away competing growth as it digs plug holes.

CUTS YOUR WORK, SAVES MONEY

Your deep-rooted, established Amazoy lawn saves time and money in many ways. It never needs replacement...ends re-seeding forever. Fertilizing and watering (water costs money, too) are rarely if ever needed. It ends the need for crabgrass killers permanently. It cuts pushing a noisy mower in blistering sun by 2/3.

NO SEED, NO SOD!

There's no seed that produces winter-hardy Meyer Zoysia. Sod of ordinary grass brings with it the problems of seed, like weeds, diseases, burning out, other ills.

Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass Was Perfected by U.S. Gov't.: Released In Cooperation With U.S. Golf Assoc. as a superior grass.

Order guaranteed Amazoy now, get your bonus plugs FREE. Your order will be delivered at earliest correct time for planting in your area.

We ship all orders the same day grass is taken from the soil, shipping/ handling charge collect via most economical means.

©1985, Zoysia Farm Nurseries

Not available in Wash. and Oregon states.

EVERY PLUG GUARANTEED TO GROW IN YOUR AREA • IN YOUR SOIL

- **WON'T WINTER KILL** — has survived temperatures 30° below zero!
- **WON'T HEAT KILL** — When other grasses burn out, Amazoy remains green & lovely!

Plug Amazoy into an entire lawn or problem areas. Plug it into poor soil, "builders soil," clay or even salty, sandy beach areas. I guarantee every plug, regardless. Any plug failing to grow in 45 days replaced FREE. Since we're hardly in business for the fun of it, you know we're 100% sure of our product!

Order now for your FREE Bonus Plugs.

To: Zoysia Farm Nurseries, Dept. 1731
(Our 30th Year) General Offices and Store
110 Painters Mill Rd. Owings Mills, Md. 21117
Please send me guaranteed Amazoy as checked below:

<input type="checkbox"/> 50 PLUGS Plus Bonus of 15 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 PLUGS Plus Bonus of 35 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 35 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 200 PLUGS Plus Bonus of 70 FREE
TOTAL 65 PLUGS	TOTAL 135 PLUGS	TOTAL 135 PLUGS	TOTAL 270 PLUGS
\$185	\$345	\$645	\$645
<input type="checkbox"/> 200 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 70 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 500 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 175 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 350 FREE	
TOTAL 270 PLUGS	TOTAL 675 PLUGS	TOTAL 1350 PLUGS	
\$945	\$1945	\$2945	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 700 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 3000 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 1000 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> FULL SIZE PLUGGER	
TOTAL 2700 PLUGS	TOTAL 4000 PLUGS		
\$4945	\$6945	\$495	

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